



Your hometown newspaper serving Novi for 47 years

Thursday, November 30, 2000

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INSIDE



The Nutcracker

The Children's Annex of Novi will perform the holiday classic, The Nutcracker Suite. — Page 6A

HOMETOWN AUTHORS

Leaving Vietnam

This week our HomeTown Author, John Ho, tells the compelling story of how his mother and aunt traveled rough waters from Vietnam to get to America. — Page 5AA

WALLED LAKE

Fresh products

Balducci's Market Place in Wixom offers area residents a convenient location for their fresh cut prime meats, a full service deli, a bakery with fresh and grain breads and prepared hot foods. — Page 7A

LIVING

Grand Gathering

Celebrate the holiday season by visiting a grand manor. The 30th annual Holiday Walk at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester, A Charmed Life: Celebrations in the Grand Manor, opens this Friday. — Page 1AA

SPORTS

All-Area Soccer

Novi Wildcats received four nominations for first team All-Area Soccer. Find out who they are and which Wildcats made second team on... — Page 1B

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FIND YOUR NAME IN TODAY'S CLASSIFIEDS!

Bowman seeks Expo Center tax abatement

By RANDAL YAKEY
Staff Writer

If not planned right, constructing a new \$18 million Novi Expo Center is a bold move that means months of meticulous planning, Novi businessman and President of the Novi Expo Center Blair Bowman said.

But considering its his money on the line, he's willing to take that chance.

Bowman is hoping that Novi City Council and the citizens of Novi, will grant him a tax abatement to help with his venture. He has run the Expo Center for the past nine years and notes he's been a good corporate citizen.

So on Monday, council set the stage for a tax abatement public hearing over the future of the Novi Expo Center. The public hearing is

set for Monday, December 4.

If constructed, the new Novi Expo Center would be one of only a few privately funded exposition centers in the country.

"This is a privately held, privately funded program," Bowman said. "I think this is a great mix. This is a way the city of Novi can stay out of it."

But there was opposition to the plan. Planning Commissioner Andrew Mutch said that he didn't feel the time was right for the abatement request and that he did not worry about Bowman's charge that he would have to relocate the Expo Center outside of Novi if the abatement is not granted.

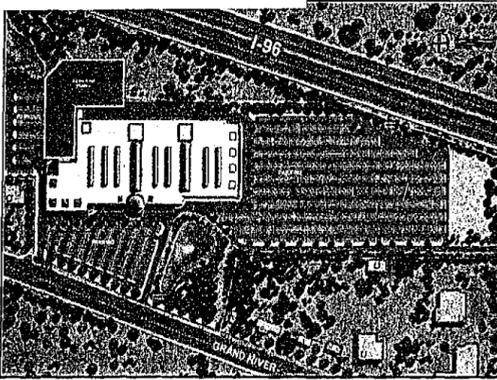
"Where is he going to go?" Mutch said. "Novi is a prime location and that is what it is all about. We've had a huge economic expansion

and Grand River has changed over even the past three years."

Mayor Pro-Tem Laura Lorenzo agreed with Mutch on the timing of the request and charged that the issue was a surprise to council, even though the Novi News reported last spring that the Novi Expo Center would be looking to construct a new facility and could request a tax abatement at some time in the process.

"While this is Mr. Bowman's timeline, this is not our timeline," Lorenzo said. "This is spoon feeding from the staff (administration). I will not support this. I just don't know what the rush is."

Lorenzo said she thought it was "poor timing" and that with the holiday season approaching, Lorenzo said that she felt the citizens need-



A conceptual drawing of the new Expo Center on Grand River near I-96.

Continued on 9

In the spirit...



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's annual Holiday Walk always draws crowds as the community celebrates the beginning of the holidays.

Holiday Walk kicks off season

By STEPHANIE FORDYCE
Staff Writer

Now a holiday tradition, the Fifth Annual Main Street Holiday Walk on November 21 had local residents and city officials mingling and jingling their way into the season.

With the lighting of the holiday trees on Main Street, a visit from Santa Claus, and a spirited performance by the Novi High School

Marching Band, the community engaged in an evening with good friends, family and food.

"This is an opportunity to bring the community together to kick-off the holidays on a positive note," said Mayor Richard Clark.

Clark, who welcomed residents in a brief ceremony outside, wished the city health, happiness, and peace for the holidays.

He recognized this as a time to

reflect on those less fortunate and to be thankful for "all the blessings that are showered upon us."

Joining Clark in spreading good cheer was State Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi.) Cassis thanked the NHS band for their performance and praised Novi and its residents for keeping the spirit of the season alive.

Continued on 5

Sex ed uproar travels to Novi

By STEPHANIE FORDYCE
Staff Writer

While the controversy with sex education in Northville Public Schools has ended, a new one in the Novi Public School system may have just begun.

At the November 16 Board of Education meeting, a handful of local parents voiced their concerns over the reproductive health class.

The class, which was up for review by the board, was revised by the Novi District Reproductive Health Advisory Committee in June and approved by the Curriculum Council in October.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Rita Traynor explained to the board that revisions to the reproductive portion of the health curriculum were minimal. Those changes included word

snipping and the elimination of the fifth grade instruction, which was found to be repetitive in relation to the fourth grade class.

While only a couple of changes were made to the current curriculum designed for grades fourth through ninth, it was what remained that left a bad taste in parent's mouths.

Parents were disgruntled to find that the classes for the older students were kept "abstinence-based," verse "abstinence-centered."

"The course is abstinence-based, but I don't agree with giving the students contraceptive alternatives if they do decide to have sex," said parent Rick Hagan, who has three daughters in the Novi school system. "I don't think it's appropriate."

Continued on 6

Time/Warner only choice for cable

By RANDAL YAKEY
Staff Writer

Frustrations are high when it comes to only one choice for cable in Novi.

And the frustration comes as a result of the Federal Government Cable Act of 1996 that limited local municipalities to one cable provider.

In Novi, it's either Time/Warner cable or no cable. Not much of a choice, according to Novi Mayor Pro-Tem Laura Lorenzo.

"Time Warner has no specific time for cable modern service," Lorenzo said. "The subscribers are not getting anything more

than they currently have and that is not quality."

Lorenzo said that cable services have not been improved and quality has actually gone down but there, really isn't much that can be done.

The facts are, either the contract is signed and the city has cable or there is no contract and there will be no cable services, said Council Member Craig DeRoche.

"We have to weight the options before us," DeRoche said.

According to the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission

Continued on 3

Poor attendance nixes Andris development

By RANDAL YAKEY
Staff Writer

A current project being developed by Novi businessman Ted Andris was nixed by the planning commission after Andris missed the last three meetings to discuss his project.

On Monday, Andris said that he would be considering his options on

the property. The property is located on Fourteen Mile and backs up to East Lake Drive in the city's north end.

"Right now it's all up in the air," Andris said. "I'm looking at a number of different possibilities."

Andris did fax the chairman of the commission a letter stating reasons why he was unable to attend

each of the meetings but apparently, according to Andris, the commission wanted him there in person.

Planning Commissioner Vic Cassis said that an applicant needs to appear before the commission so that questions the commission has may be answered about their developments.

"Mr. Andris hasn't shown and has

communicated by (only) mail (fax)," Cassis said. "I think we have gone long and hard with Mr. Andris."

Cassis said that Andris has wasted an enormous amount of the planning commission time not appearing before the commission.

"We need to address some sort of standard when someone doesn't show in front of the commission

three times," Cassis said. "And you don't give us the courtesy of explaining why and what the problem is."

Andris said that he would be looking over all the alternatives with his planners and the city planning department. Andris even hinted that there could be a whole other

Continued on 10

CMU student wins trip to see N'SYNC

By STEPHANIE FORDYCE
Staff Writer

Sometimes the near mention of N'SYNC can send a girl into heart-throb overload.

While many would die for a chance to meet the dancing and singing sensations in person, Novi native Tracy Cohn not only spoke with the group but was also invited to attend a private concert.

As part of a radio contest on Detroit's Q95.5 FM, Cohn won an all-expenses-paid weekend to Orlando, Fla. to meet the boy band and see them perform live.

"It was an incredible experience," Cohn said, who went October 27-29. "I still can't believe it happened."

Cohn and best friend Laura Takla, also of Novi, were two of 150 others who won across the country.

The trip, sponsored by Nabisco, included a two night stay at the Portofino Bay Hotel, dinner at Planet Hollywood, tour of Universal Studios and theme park, a "meet and greet" with N'SYNC, and a private concert at the House of Blues. Cohn and Takla were even escorted by limo.

"Watching them perform live was definitely my favorite part of the trip," Cohn said.

Performing seven of their popular hits, Cohn said she managed to squeeze in just five feet away.

Continued on 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tracy Cohn, far right, won a trip to meet N'SYNC and took her friend Laura Takla, center, with her.

Altercation at bar leads to mob brawl

MOB RULES
A Highland Township man who said he was protecting his sister was beaten by a mob outside of Fifth Avenue Billiards on November 25, at about 2:47 a.m.

Police reports indicate that the suspect, described as an Arab or Chaldean man, grabbed the buttocks of the victim's sister and when the man protested, the suspect challenged the man to a fight. The man declined and he, his sister, and a friend left the bar.

According to police, the suspect and ten or fifteen of his friends followed the three into the parking lot where the two men were beaten.

The mob fled in what was described in the reports as "SUVs." Police have issued a report to be kept on file. No further status of the

Police News

BETTER THAN A SALE
A female suspect entered the Music Co. Round store at the Novi Town Center on November 21 around 10:56 a.m. and picked out a digital tape recorder and a digital video recorder and proceeded to pay for the items with a bad check, according to Novi police records.

Police attempted to contact the suspect but found that the license number used was false and the phone number used on the check was disconnected.

The case has been forwarded to the Oakland County Prosecutors office to start collection proceedings.

PARTY TIME
When police observed a blue Chrysler driving southbound on Haggerty Road with the window open and a man's head sticking out vomiting on down the highway, they knew something was wrong.

At approximately 3:30 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 22, a police cruiser was traveling northbound on Haggerty when he was passed by a man vomiting out the window just

south of Fourteen Mile Road. The squad car turned around and headed southbound when he spotted the car on Geneva, a side street just over the border in Farmington Hills.

When police asked the man if he was hiding, the man denied he was attempting to avoid police.

"No, I just think I need to stop driving because I was not driving straight," the man told police.

The man, a 27-year-old Novi resident, eventually admitted to police that he had a few drinks in Jamaica Joe's Bar and Grill in West Bloomfield.

The man was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol. The man's blood alcohol level was listed as 0.12. According to the State of Michigan, 0.10 or over is considered legally drunk.

Novi Briefs

POTTERS MARKET OPENS THIS WEEKEND
Don't forget about your pet this Christmas. This weekend, Novi resident Joe Shabels will have dozens of dog crafts on sale at this year's 25th Annual Potters Market.

Whether its Christmas ornaments or personalized food and water containers for your pooch, Shabels has it. She'll also have coffee mugs and other small products for sale as well.

The annual Potters Market, the largest pottery sale in the country, will take place December 1, 2, and 3 in Madison Heights at the United Food and Commercial Union Hall at 876 Horace Brown Drive near Thirteen Mile, between I-75 and John R.

The renowned pottery sale features 130 potters offering nearly 40,000 pieces of pottery ranging from pots, vases, platters, tiles and mugs to bird baths, jewelry, ceramic framed mirrors, lamps, tables and just about every item imaginable.

Hours for the Potters Market are Friday, December 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

'MUSIC MAN' AUDITIONS SLATED FOR DECEMBER
Auditions for the Novi Theatres production of "The Music Man" will be held December 12 and 14. Auditions will take place at the Novi Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. Audition packets can be picked up the Parks & Recreation Department, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The play will hit the stage March 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11.

The Novi Theatres' musicals are open to all actors ages 7-97. The Novi Theatres is a non-profit theatre and all actors must pay a participation fee of \$125 once cast.



Talking turkey at Orchard Hills

Students delight in Thanksgiving celebration in elementary classroom

By STEPHANIE FORDYCE
Staff Writer

Orchard Hills Elementary first and second graders got an early start on stuffing their tummies, as they took part in a pre-Thanksgiving feast, October 22.

Dressed in their pilgrim hats, bonnets, and Indian feathers, the children enjoyed a bountiful feast of goodies.

Throughout the week, the children learned about the holiday tradition and the first graders even performed a play about the first Thanksgiving.

"The children also had fun drawing and designing turkeys using all sorts of resources.

"Thanksgiving was the day when the Indians and Pilgrims celebrated their friendship with a big feast," explained 6-year-old Alexander Vaishampayan.

Vaishampayan and classmates Kylie Olkowski and Derek Poppengette said after a rough ride over on the Mayflower, the first winter for the pilgrims was harsh and many died.

But with the help of Native Americans, Squanto, the English learned how to plant, hunt and fish.

"They would not have survived without his help," said Vaishampayan. "He taught them about the poisonous plants and showed them how to plant the Indian corn."

Askle Auterson and Derek Kim said while they were sure to get enough to eat that afternoon, they were still looking forward to the fixings on Thursday.

"I'm going to eat lots of turkey and mashed potatoes," Kim said.

Stephanie Fordyce is a staff writer for the Novi News. Her e-mail address is sfordyce@nl.homecom.net.

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Council upset over cable choices

Continued from 1

(SWOCC), representative for Clark said.

Council approved the first reading of the contract on Monday and will review the contract again on December 4.

Novi Mayor Richard Clark reiterated what most council members said regarding the cable contract.

"It's not everything we want," Clark said.

Randal Yokey is a staff writer for the Novi News. His e-mail address is ryakey@nl.homecom.net.

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South Lyon location:
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Join us as we celebrate the sights and sounds of the holiday season and enjoy some of the Novi area's finest school choirs. Take a break from holiday shopping to hear Deerfield Elementary School, Guest Elementary School, Maple Elementary School, South Lyon Middle School & Walnut Creek Middle School.

FREE 'Cookies for Santa' collectible plate

The 8-inch, handcrafted plate is yours FREE when you spend just \$100 between December 1 and December 24 at Novi Town Center. The plate is designed by a child for Save the Children® and a portion of the proceeds are donated to programs that help disadvantaged children around the world. To get your plate, simply take dated receipts to one of the following Novi Town Center retailers.

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December 16 Noon to 3 p.m.
December 23 Noon to 3 p.m.

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Footnotes
Dr. Michael P. Burk

BASKETBALL & YOUR FEET

Basketball is a popular winter sport. Played competitively or recreationally, it can wreak havoc on the feet due to its stops and starts, jumping, and running. The foot and ankle suffer tremendous pressure in basketball, and injuries are common. Acute injuries occur with a sudden blow or fall, while chronic injuries result from extended wear and tear. Ankle sprains, torn ligaments, muscle pulls, ruptured tendons, and fractures are some common acute injuries. An acute injury requires immediate medical attention and is often treated initially with the RICE method - rest, ice, compression, and elevation. Stress fractures, plantar fasciitis, shin splints, Achilles heel, and tendinitis are common chronic injuries associated with basketball. Stretching, warm-ups, and proper conditioning can help prevent chronic conditions. Wearing basketball specific shoes will support the foot and ankle and help reduce the potential for injury.

Whether an avid athlete or weekend warrior, your podiatrist can be a valuable member of your team to keep you in the game and off the sidelines. If you're playing with pain or have an injury, call Dr. Burk at Novi Footcare Associates, 39555 W. Ten Mile Road, Suite 307, Novi, (248) 476-1500.

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Tickets: \$3 each, 2 for \$5, 5 for \$10, 25 for \$40
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Brickscape, Anne's Crafts, Bon-Loot, Bonnie Brook Homes (displayed at the Library), Bueter's Outdoors, Changing Seasons, Gardenviews, Genitti's, Goldsmith Galleries, Great Harvest Bread Company, Leo E. Holland & Associates, Kitchen Witch, Long's Fancy Bath Boutique, MacKinnon's Restaurant, Northville Camera/Pictures Plus Gallery, Northville Candle and Gifts, Northville Central Business Association, Northville Pharmacy, Orin Jewelers, Painter's Place/Slavika/Your Michigan Connection, Pamplemoose, Salutations, The Sawmill, Stampeddler Plus, and Ultimate Toys & Gifts.

Drawing December 10. Trees delivered December 11 and 12.

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FREE ADVERTISING???

Free Items! / Check Out the Absolutely Free Column in the Green Sheet

N'Sync fan wins contest

Continued from 1

"They weren't lip-synching either," Cohn pointed out. She said the band also kept the house lights on the entire concert and even talked with the crowd between sets.

Prior to the concert, winners had the opportunity to briefly meet the group and pose for a picture. Cohn said she made sure to get next to her favorite members, Joey and Lance, during the shoot.

"The guys were really down-to-earth and Joey was joking around with us," she said. She and Joey got so chummy while snapping pictures, Cohn ended up with his e-mail address.

"I haven't tried using it yet, so I don't know if it's the real thing," she said. Cohn, who said she's never won anything before, qualified for the trip back in the summer after weeks of numerous tries.

Once she qualified, she and hundreds of other contestants were put into a pool. There was only room for one winner, and an early morning call sent Cohn's mom flying out of bed.

"All of the sudden I hear all this screaming and yelling," said mother Vicki. "I thought someone was hurt."

Vicki Cohn said she ran downstairs to find both her daughter and Taki jumping up and down. "They were like two little kids," she said. They were so excited they were literally in tears, shaking and trembling. "I thought 'Trey was going to faint!'"

It seemed Cohn's exuberance made quite an impression on \$95.5 too, as they played her winning screams on the radio for weeks.

"I've never seen my daughter like that - she was a lunatic," her mother said.

Cohn, who is a junior at Central Michigan University majoring in Communications, said the trip is something she'll always remember.

"It was just awesome," she said. "I'll never forget it."

Stephanie Fordyce is a staff writer for the Novi News. Her e-mail address is sfordyce@ht.homecom.net

Holiday Happenings

The Novi Chorales Holiday Concert

Celebrate the spirit of the season this holiday with the Novi Chorales in their upcoming Millennium Christmas Concerts, December 1, 2, and 3. The Novi Chorales will perform December 1 at the Farmington Methodist Church located at 33112 Grand River at 7:30 p.m.; at the Path Presbyterian Church at 44400 W. 10 Mile Road on December 2 at 7:30 p.m.; and at the Holy Family Church at 24505 Meadowbrook Road on December 3 at 4 p.m.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$6 for seniors and children under 12.

Net proceeds for the concert go to the after-school program and the senior center.

Tickets are available by calling the Novi Parks & Recreation office at

(248) 347-0400 or from any Chorales member. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Mini Society Sells Gifts For The Holidays

Haven't started your Christmas shopping yet? Come and visit Fourth Grade's Millennium Mall, they have what you are looking for.

Parkview's Fourth Graders will be selling their products November 30th and December 1-5. Money Maker's Millennium Mall store hours will be Monday, Dec. 4, Tuesday, Dec. 5, Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 8 (Family Day) from 12:50-1:50 p.m.

Holiday Celebrations From Around The World

On December 4, you and your family are invited to join and celebrate the many different cultures

that make the city of Novi a community. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Novi Middle School will be transformed and host over 11 different countries. A holiday address from Mayor Clark and a visit from Santa will bring magic to the evening. The grand finale to the evening will be the Novi elementary students singing Jingle Bells in Spanish.

Various refreshments will be hosted by the Novi newcomers and the Novi Neighborhood Girl Scout Bake Sale is sure to provide sweet treats for all ages.

Admission to this holiday event is a can or box of food to give to the Neely Family Christmas Program. Items will be collected as you enter Novi Middle School by the Novi

Jays. A shuttle will be provided for overflow parking. The shuttle will pick

up families at 6:20, 6:35, and 6:50 p.m. from Parkview Elementary and will begin return trips at 7:45 p.m.

For more information contact the Novi Parks & Recreation Department at (248) 347-0400.

Novi Rotary Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon

Mark your calendars for December 7 for this fun holiday luncheon at the Novi Middle School beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Transportation will be available from City Hall at 11 a.m.

For more information or to sign up for the event call Geri Stupp at (248) 442-2292 or Jane Cameron at (248) 798-5500 ext. 11. Interested guests may also sign up with Jan McAlpine at the Senior Center.

Novi Parks & Recreation Holiday Kid's Bash

Back for their fourth year, this

event is fun for the kids and gives five hours of freedom for their parents. Enthusiastic Santa's helpers will assist your youngsters at various age appropriate stations where they will make crafts, play games, go on a Holiday Scavenger Hunt, and make yummy goodies. They'll even get to give their wish list to Jolly Old Saint Nick himself.

There will be treats to take home, a keepsake photo of your child and lots of fun for all. Kids should bring a bag lunch. Beverage and snacks will be provided.

The fun runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center. This event, centered for ages 3-8, is limited to 40 participants.

Cost is \$25 for residents and \$30 for non-residents. Package includes all materials, beverage and snack.

Sex ed creates a stir

Continued from 1

Rosemarie Denton said the term "abstinence-based," which the district has adopted, is misleading and deceiving.

"What we're saying essentially is that 'abstinence is best, however there is a back-up plan if you can't control yourself-and that's condoms,'" she said. "I think it sends students a mixed message and I think we can hold our kids to a higher standard than that."

Denton said she would like to see the district adopt the portion as an elective or design the curriculum strictly abstinence centered.

She was also in favor of offering two versions of the class, one abstinence "based," one "centered."

While Denton home schools her children, she said because they live in Novi, they are affected by the class.

"We still live in the real world," she said. "My kids interact with other children in Novi, whether it's playing sports or running around the neighborhood."

Other concerns raised during the meeting included having the ninth grade boys and girls in the same class and the alternative for those students who opt out of the class.

To ensure that the public has their say on the class, the board will hold two public hearings on the curriculum on January 18 at Orchard Hills Elementary and February 8 at the Educational Services Building beginning at 6:45 p.m.

After the hearings, the board will decide whether or not to approve the course.

The proposed reproductive health curriculum outline is now available for parents.

Board members such as Julie Abrams and Bruce Bagdady said they were happy with the proposed revisions to the curriculum.

"I'm very pleased with the growth and development until, I believe when students are given correct, straight forward information, that they can make healthy life style choices for themselves," Abrams said. "I think this should please the general public and teach our students, so that they can make good decisions."

Stephanie Fordyce is a staff writer for the Novi News. Her e-mail address is sfordyce@ht.homecom.net

Festivities starts off holidays

Continued from 1

"I wish all of you a happy and safe holiday this year," she said. "May all your dreams come true. God bless."

Also present at the ceremony were Oakland County Board Commissioner Hugh Crawford, Council members Craig DeRoche, Lou Cozzetta, and Ed Kramar, Chamber of Commerce Director Stacey DeRoche, Chief Operating Officer Craig Klaver, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis, and Main Street Developer James Chen.

Prior to the holiday ceremony, residents lined up along Main Street to hear the high school marching band perform "Jingle Bells."

After the band set the tone for the evening, the Mayor assisted in the lighting of trees.

Once the lights were lit, in rode a yellow fire engine chugging none other than Jolly old Saint Nick himself.

Santa, accompanied by Mrs. Claus and two of his elves, was greeted with a warm reception from the community and was even handed the key to the city.

Then it was time to head indoors and warm up with some hot food: as a number of local restaurants filled the Main Street atrium and treated walkers to over dozens of goodies including Red, Hot & Blue, Local Color, Gatsby's, Caribou Coffee, The Lazy Lizard, Qutznio's and Wendy's.

Larson Jewelry, Real Estate One, McSweeney Electric and Double Tree Hotel were also sponsors.

While mom and dad could eat and chat downstairs, the kids were busy upstairs telling Santa their Christmas lists.

For 9-year-old Kevin Slawinski from Novi Woods, it was a Sony Playstation game and a scooter.

Despite the cold weather, more than 300 people turned out for the Holiday Walk of 2000.

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HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (PG) 12:30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:25

THE CALAMITARY (G) 12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40

UNBREAKABLE (PG-13) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:45, 9:55

THE STRAY (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50

MEET THE PARENTS (R) 1:00, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

CHARLIE'S ANGELS (PG-13) 1:30, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, 9:35

LEGEND OF MARGE VANCE (PG-13) 1:50, 4:10, 6:50, 9:15

MEET THE PARENTS (PG-13) 12:10, 2:20, 4:35, 7:10, 9:20

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'Nutcracker' takes stage in Novi

By STEPHANIE FORDYCE
Staff Writer



Take a break this year from the holiday headaches to enjoy a timeless classic from The Novi Theatres. Presented by Children's Annex, the story of The Nutcracker comes to life on stage with all your favorite characters including Clara, The Sugar Plum Fairy, and Mouse King.

"It's really a nice way to get into the Christmas spirit," said 13-year-old Heidi Tobie who plays Aunt Beulah. Mary Kay Davis handles the reins as director, with choreography by Carrie Weicker.

"The cast, ranging from ages nine to 14, describe their version of the family favorite as a perfect combination of dialog and dancing. It's a genre of entertainment," said actor Ben Harpe. "There's drama, comedy, ballet, and even sword fighting."

For those unfamiliar with the holiday tale, it's about a nutcracker who comes to life and takes a young girl on a thrilling adventure inside his magic kingdom, explained 12-year-old Kristina Fossbakke who will play one of the Snowflakes. The lead of Clara will be played by Allison Davies and Bryan Dechart will play the Nutcracker.

Actors Cameron Lewis, Ellen Smith and Molly Alpert said while the Children's Annex version is quite similar to the original, there are some added surprises that make the show humorously unique. With a huge cast of over 50 young stars, The Nutcracker will be a performance perfect for any family outgrowing this holiday.

"We've been working really hard. I think people will be amazed," said



Photo by TOM HIBBELN

From left, Allison Davies (Clara), Sarah Pylar (the Sugar Plum Fairy), Bryan Dechart (the Nutcracker) and Brett Schwartz (the Mouse King) rehearse for their upcoming performance.

Caillin O'Rourke from Novi Middle School. "It's going to be an awesome performance." Harpe and Jason Margolis, both students at Novi Meadows, said while the dancing was somewhat of a challenge, everyone seemed to have down their dance steps. "I'm just thankful because I'm the only man in the play who doesn't have to wear tights," Harpe joked. Newcomers to community theater, Megan Snavey and Michael McDonald, said doing The Nutcracker was a wonderful first acting experience. "It's a lot of fun and it gives you the chance to meet a lot of really nice people," McDonald said. Snavey, Margolis, and fellow actor Tiffany Lin said this will be a performance that audiences of all ages,

especially children, are sure to enjoy. "I think kids will really like it not only because it's a good play, but because they have the chance to see people their own age acting the parts," Snavey said. If you and your family want to be a part of the spirit this season, join one of three productions December 8, 9, 10 at the Novi Middle School Auditorium. Show times for Friday and Saturday are 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Seating is limited. Tickets are available at the Novi Parks & Recreation Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For further information about this production, please call the Novi Parks & Recreation Department at (248) 347-0400.

THE CAST

Allison Davies, Bryan Dechart, Ben Harpe, Caillin O'Rourke, Ron Ketele, Emily Harpe, Cameron Lewis, Emily Barton, Jason Margolis, Heidi Tobie, William Angello, Laura Brudzynak, Kurtis Gungor, Sarah Tyler, Brett Schwartz, Tiffany Lin, Grace Dworkowski, Laura Janik, Linda Janik, Melissa Duncan, Stephanie Bonnierio, Laurin Bellard, Sarah Barton, Jenna Uller, Katalyn McDonald, Katie Colacchino, Ellen Smith, Laura Lesion, Emma Niendorf, Meghan Murray, Adrienne Ragsdale, Caillin Marshall, Sara Kalinowski, Caroline Vacketta, Kelle Wallen, Meghan Burke, Heather Donohue, Nick Mirnikos, Michael McDonald, Dana Joenig, Meagan Snavey, Kristin Bradford, Kim Frizges, Emily Holl, Lyndsey Kitzell, Kristina Fossbakke, Julie Langehorst, Mara Weber, Hanna Brinza, Megan Jaisle, and Kimberly Davies.

Photo by TOM HIBBELN
Sarah Pylar (the Sugar Plum Fairy) and Bryan Dechart (the Nutcracker) rehearse for their upcoming performance.

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WALLED LAKE NEWS

Page 7A Thursday, November 30, 2000

WALLED LAKE BRIEFS

Counseling replaces bloodwork

Since 1989, couples wishing to be married were required by the State of Michigan to receive premarital counseling on HIV and STDs. Counseling was instituted as a replacement for the blood test; a test which determined if the couple had syphilis. Counseling has been available through private physician's offices and local health departments.

As of January 1, 2001, the State of Michigan will no longer require premarital counseling prior to marriage and the Oakland County Health Division will no longer be conducting premarital counseling classes on Monday evenings. The last class will be held December 18, 2000.

For persons being married in 2000 (including those being married on 1-1-01) premarital counseling is still required prior to obtaining a marriage license. For those being married in 2001, apply for a license after 1-1-01 and you will receive literature from the Oakland County Clerk's Office.

For more information, contact Oakland County Health Department, Walled Lake Office, 1010 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake, MI. 48390-3588, (248) 926-3300.

Teachers Conference

On March 15-16, 2001, Walled Lake Schools will be hosting the 1st annual MAMSE (Michigan Association of Middle School Educators) conference at Sarah Banks Middle School. Teachers and administrators from all over Michigan will be presenting successful ways to better educate our young people. Everyone is invited to attend this middle school odyssey.

The conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Charlene Swanson, nationally known author, teacher and management consultant, who has been called the "Jane Fonda of the brain" by the Los Angeles Times. Dr. Swanson is Executive Director of MIND, WOLKS, a company that does research in neurobiology and offers training to educational institutions and private corporations. She has also written film and television scripts. Her creative teaching methods were featured in a feature-length film that won the Best Documentary award at the 1990 American Film Festival.

The March MAMSE conference will also highlight Elliot Merenbloom, educational consultant, whose best-selling books include "Developing Effective Middle Schools Through Faculty Participation" and "Team Process: A Handbook for Teachers."

Randy Thompson, author of "Wow, What a Team" will also be featured, along with Walled Lake educator Joann Garetson, Michigan Teacher of the Year, who will speak on inclusion in the classroom. Performing at the banquet at the Novi Hilton will be Three Men and a Tenor, one of Michigan's most popular comedy and musical entertainment groups. This high-energy quartet has a repertoire of attention-getting tunes that are performed without instrumental accompaniment. Their vocal sound effects are a virtual orchestra. Explore effective programs, creative strategies, stimulating ideas, and innovative technology at MAMSE's 2001 middle school conference at Sarah Banks Middle School in Walled Lake. For more information regarding registration, please contact Mrs. Linda Day by phone (248) 956-2448 or by fax (248) 956-2226.

Holiday Open House

Wixom-Wire House holiday happenings are just around the corner. There will be a holiday Open House on the evening of Saturday, December 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. as well as Sunday afternoon, December 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served at both. Stop by and see this cozy little historical home all decorated for the holidays.

Also at the Wixom-Wire House the Wixom Historical Society will be having their Nocturnal Night on Monday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to join in this festive sing-a-long.

The Wixom-Wire House is located at the south west corner of Wixom and West Maple Roads.

Tips for getting noticed

Sitting at a table filled with successful small business owners and listening to their stories is like reading a book. Each of their stories has a pitted plot, villains and more heroes than a Charlie's Angels rerun. Ask them how they became successful and their eyes light up, their face swells with pride and the story begins.

It makes my job as a reporter so easy.

Small business owners are experts in their respective field. When it comes to their business, they know what they are talking about. From simple retail companies to biochemists and fuel cell scientists, they know their market and business better than anyone.

What the average small business owner doesn't always realize is they can share that information with anyone who will listen. With a success story just stewing in their gray matter, most small business can easily become a journalist's prize source. If they don't want more business, then it's all right. But I haven't met a business owner yet who wouldn't share their story if it meant more cash.

A news story on your business, or just having you, the small business owner, quoted on a national story about your field is worth its weight in advertising gold. You've already become the expert, now tell the world.

Here's how:

- Tell your story. Local communities often have a daily or weekly newspaper or business journal that is always looking for feature stories. Call the beat reporter and tell your story. If you're articulate, have an exciting product or have never been in the paper before, you'll have a great chance of getting interviewed.
- Write in. Write the national news and see if it applies to your business. It can be as simple as issuing a press release or statement about how you don't like to see a tax increase, or as complex as making a stand on a controversial issue. Choose your issues carefully and be ready for phone calls and questions from customers when your name does make it in the paper.
- Keep practicing. If you're really interested in making it to the limelight, make sure your available for call backs, be honest when speaking to a reporter, be realistic about your chances of making it in the media and become a good speaker. You've worked for years to perfect your business, speaking to the press and getting the fame you deserve can follow the same process.

Holiday Decoration competition

The Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority and the City of Walled Lake invite all residences and business located within the city limits to participate in the 8th annual Holiday Display Contest, a city-wide holiday decoration competition.

To participate, businesses and residents are asked to nominate themselves or a neighbor by Dec. 8 by calling either 624-6284, or 624-3456. Nominations can also be faxed to the DDA office at 926-9004. Entries will be judged by a volunteer citizens' committee. Businesses and residences will be evaluated on the basis of effective use of lighting, exterior decorations and overall appearance.

Awards will be announced Dec. 15 and presented at the Jan. 3, 2001 Walled Lake City Council meeting.

Wixom activities

- Pinocchio Bus Trip
For ages 4 to adults attend the Marquis Theater in Northville on Friday, Dec. 29, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. It is \$10 per person. Fee includes bus, ticket, and treat. Register early.
- Snowmobile Safety
Class will be held for ages 12-adult, Monday, Dec. 4 and Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 6-9 p.m. at the Wixom Community Center. Fee \$15 per person. The Oakland County Sheriff's Department will instruct on mechanical operation and legal responsibilities of operating a snowmobile safely. Bring your Social Security number.

For more information, 624-2850.

Balduci's market a family affair

By ANNETTE JAWORSKI
Special Writer



Photo by NANCY NOBLE

If you're in a hurry driving down Wixom Road, you might just pass a new neighborhood market, where you'll find fresh produce and other specialty foods. Located near many residential neighborhoods, Balduci's Market Place offers area residents a convenient location for their fresh cut prime meats, a full service deli, a bakery with fresh and grain breads and prepared hot foods.

Owner, John Donohoe, is part of a long family tradition of fresh produce. The Balduci tradition began over 100 years ago farming produce in Canada, and the family moved to Genesee County in the 1930's. The business is now in its fifth generation with John Donohoe and his son, Brett, keeping the business a family affair.

In season, many of the store's produce is grown on their 750-acre farm in the Flint area, only a short distance away. For the remainder of the merchandise, they make a daily pick up at the terminal downtown to provide the best for their customers.

The Donohoe family places a strong emphasis on healthy and fresh.

"Freshness is the key. When it comes to the meat in the deli, it's all cut on the premises (nothing is pre-sliced). It's what we pride ourselves on," said Donohoe.

They hope to offer more of a neighborhood market atmosphere where there's more personalized service, and they know the customers by name. They also hope to make a name for themselves by offering a selection of specialty and gourmet foods over and above what you might find in the supermarket.

"You can get just about everything you need. It's a lot of little things that make the difference. Most of the time, you're really not paying much more," he said.

He points to hand made pasta direct from Italy, gourmet olive oils, fresh, not frozen turkeys and seafood, Guernsey milk products, and freezing ice cream.

In the produce aisles, you'll see fresh herbs to cook with. The deli offers a wide range of meat from the top of the line Boar's Head and imported cheeses to traditional everyday brands. The same is true throughout the store, where you'll find an offering of everyday grocery staples as well as an array of ethnic, specialty and gourmet foods to suit your fancy.

"Anything that you can find here, I've tried and can testify it's good."

John Donohoe
Owner of Balduci's Market Place

It's a little flavor of this and a little flavor of that," Donohoe said. "Donohoe is a big fan of sampling different and unique flavors, and enjoys the opportunity to try the specialty foods he offers."

"Anything that you find out here, I've tried and can testify it's good," he adds.

Future plans include offering more breads in the bakery as the customers demand increases. Every dessert person should take a walk past their bakery counter

Balduci's Market Place is a family run business. Pictured above are Carol, Danny, Brett, John, Samanta, Greg and Nicky Balduci.

himself believes in the health benefits of eating organic foods. Shoppers can top off their selections of fine foods with floral items as well. Seasonally, they offer wreaths, grave blankets and other holiday items. Balduci's Market Place is located at 2133 Wixom Road in Wixom, to place special orders call (248) 926-2181. Loomis Pizzeria

THE BALDUCI FACTS

Balduci's is hoping to draw clientele from several local communities heavy with residential population including Wixom's population of 8,550 and approximately 4,475 families in an area of 24,251 square kilometers. Walled Lake residents add a population of 6,276 and 2,884 families in an area of 5,875 square kilometers. Nearby Milford will add a population of 5,511 with 2,108 family and 6,404 square kilometers.

To save yourself a step or two while shopping you'll find a Marathon gas station, Dollar Max, Sarok's Party store and Loomis Pizzeria in the same plaza.

Shop wisely, stay out of debt

Every year, shoppers delve into the holiday season determined not to overspend. They craft budgets, detailed gift lists and slash credit cards. Still many greet the new year with new debt accumulated in just a few short weeks, only to linger for months to come.

CU Village.com and the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL) invite credit union members and consumers to stop the holiday shopping madness by visiting online with Paul Richard, executive vice president of the National Center for Financial Education (NCFE). The free, hour-long chat dubbed "Wise Holiday Spending" is scheduled for 1 p.m. EST, December 5, 2000, at CU Village.com's Members' Marketplace.

It seems especially hard for consumers not to overspend during the holidays because of an emotional need to express love, appreciation and friendship," Richard said. "But true friends also understand the need to stay within reasonable limits, especially when overspending creates debts that will haunt you throughout the New Year."

Consumers participating in the online chat can ask Richard questions through the assistance of a moderator and gain immediate, online responses. To sign up for the chat, go to www.cuvillage.com, select the credit union in your area from the drop down box listed under "Members' Marketplace" and click on the chat promotion in the center of the page.

"The online chat is an excellent forum for consumers to ask important financial questions that they may otherwise feel uncomfortable posing in a more traditional setting," said David Adams, president and chief executive officer for the MCUL.

The Members' Marketplace is an online community that provides information, education and resources that meet the needs of credit union members. NCFE is non-profit group based in San Diego, Calif., which helps people become better spenders, regular savers and more careful credit users.

Humane society needs gifts for pets

Sometimes our lives get so busy over the holiday season, with buying gifts for the family, friends and co-workers, that we forget that our pets might like something new to chew on, or to sleep in or that they have outgrown their old collar and need a new one.

With this in mind the Humane Society of Livingston County would like to ask you that when you are shopping for your own Fido or Fluffy this holiday season remember the pets being fostered by the Humane Society of Livingston County. These pets are living in a volunteer's home and they need extra special love and care. Sometimes just having something new to play with or to chew on makes all the difference in their day. By placing an item in the donation box

provided or in the stockings made by Brownie troop #2004 of Pinckney, you can help an animal that is up for adoption at the Humane Society. At each location you can choose a stocking marked Cat, Kitten, Dog or Puppy and place a small gift in them, or put food or litter, or something else larger in the donation boxes.

Please make a donation at one of these nine locations to help the animals cared for by the Humane Society by December 20, 2000:

- Highland/Milford - Roadside Veterinary Clinic on Milford Road
- Brighton - Animal Hospital
- Pet Supplies Plus
- Woodland Animal Hospital
- The Humane Society of Livingston County

Some of the items needed are: Dog collars, choke chains, pet food bowls, cat toys, dog chews, adult cat food, kitten food, adult dog food, puppy food, scoopable cat litter, litter boxes, leashes, flea preventatives, dog bones, toys and balls.

In addition you can visit Santa and have your kids or pets picture taken at "Santa Paws" on both December 3 and 10 at pet supplies "Plus" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a minimum \$5 donation. All proceeds go to the Humane Society of Livingston County. They are located at 8703 W. Grand River in Brighton across from Meijer. No appointment necessary. For more information call (810) 229-7840 or visit the Society's web site at www.mcul.org.

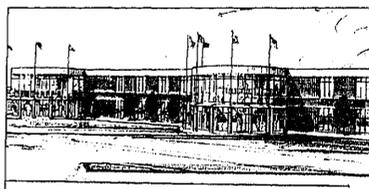
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CLASSIFIED

Expo Center looks for room to grow

By RANDAL YAKEV
Staff Writer

A new Expo Center is something that Blair Bowman is hoping will be a catalyst for expanded growth in the city of Novi.

The new \$18 million facility, with an estimated 150,000 feet of exhibition space and a 30,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art banquet hall and conference center, will have 40 percent more space for exhibits and 35 percent more parking, Bowman said. The new center will draw in over \$180 million to deeply impact southwestern Oakland County.



This drawing depicts a corner of the concept for the outside of the new center.

The new facility, which is slated for the north side of Grand River just west of Taft Road, is expected to cover an estimated 320,000 sq. ft. of space.

"We have an opportunity to keep this community booming," Bowman said. "I think we've been a good corporate partner and we want to grow in that capacity."

A study done by Michigan Consultants of Lansing notes that

a new Novi Expo Center could generate an estimated quarter billion dollars annually and produce a significant economic "windfall" for other Novi businesses.

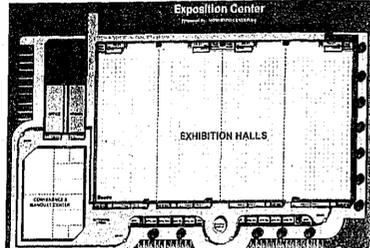
The study says that about a \$100 million of that is a local impact," Bowman said. "If you look at what other communities do, they are totally taxpayer subsidized for operation."

"This (Novi's new center) will be totally privately funded. No taxpayers' money will be used in the construction of this facility," Bowman said.

If the abatement is secured and conceptual plans are presented to the city, Bowman said he and his staff will work to push the project ahead as quickly as possible.

"Once we get the abatement we will take our conceptual process and put them into a more formal planning," Bowman said. "I expect that to take about six to nine months after we get the abatement."

Bowman said that it could take six months for the planning



A conceptual drawing of the inside of the new Expo Center.

"More importantly," Bowman said, "We are in-between a number of interchanges. We'll have a three mile stretch of Grand River that will act as a way for people to get to us."

But Bowman did agree that the new Beck Road interchange would be the primary interchange though he did expect visitors to the new Expo Center to still utilize Novi Road and the new Wixom Road interchange.

"We think that, with the road improvements and our new facility, we'll put economic investment

CITY OF NOVI VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi will be interviewing applicants on Monday, December 11, 2000 beginning at 7:30 p.m. for appointment to the Board of Review, Beautification Commission, Cable Access Committee, Housing & Community Development Commission, Historical Commission, Library Board, Novi Ice Arena Commission, Planning Commission, Stormwater Management and Watershed Stewardship Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

If you are interested in serving on a City board or commission, applications are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., or by calling 347-0456 to receive an application by mail or fax, or at www.ci.novi.mi.us. Please submit your application by Thursday, December 7, 2000 to allow time for scheduling appointments.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
(11-30-00 NR 1013326)

CITY OF NOVI

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Woodlands Review Board, of the City of Novi, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at 4:30 p.m. at the City of Novi, Community Development Conference Room, Novi, Michigan to review the Woodlands Review Board Permit Application for Singh Homes, LLC - Willowbrook Farms, Lot 60 (Case 400-24).

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend. Any written comments may be sent to the Department of Public Services, Attention Woodland Review Board, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, until 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 6, 2000.

KAREN AMOLSCH, W & S CUSTOMER SERVICE
(11-30-00 NR/NV 1015205)

CITY OF NOVI

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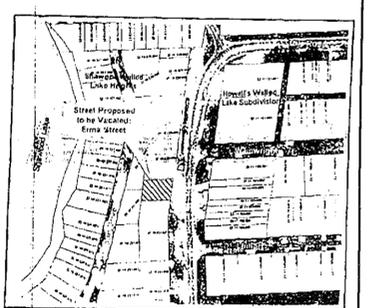
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KAREN AMOLSCH, W & S CUSTOMER SERVICE
(11-30-00 NR/NV 1015205)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED VACATION OF ERMA STREET (WEST) WALKWAY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 4, 2000, at 8:30 p.m., at as soon thereafter as the same may be reached, on the proposed vacation of Erma Street (west) walkway.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan. All interested persons will be heard at the hearing.



Questions regarding this matter may be directed to the City Clerk at 248-347-0456.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
(11-30-00 NR/NV 1015247)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - LAKESHORE PARK

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Playground Equipment - Lakeshore Park according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., prevailing eastern time, Thursday, December 7, 2000, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "Playground Equipment - Lakeshore Park" BID AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informalities or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0456
(11-30-00 NR, NV 1015131)

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A program of the American Pharmaceutical Association
The National Professional Society of Pharmacists

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 00-055

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT G & S Electric is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a temporary construction trailer from December 7, 2000 through July 30, 2001 at the Magna site, which is located on the South of Thirteen Mile Road and West of Haggerty Road on Lewis Drive.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permits.

This request will be considered at 3:00 p.m. on December 6, 2000, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Official and must be received prior to December 6, 2000.

C. J. KILLBREW, SR. PRINCIPAL CLERK
(248) 347-0415
(11-30-00 NR, NV 1014875)

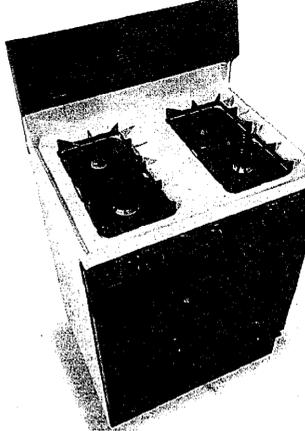
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Hearing set for Expo abatement

Continued from 1

ed more time.

Novi City Manager Richard Helwig said he took "extreme" steps to accept "Lorenzo's" comments of "spoon feeding" and noted that all applicants for tax abatements are to receive two weeks on the agenda from the time the request is filed with the city.

Mayor Richard Clark backed up Helwig saying that all applicants will be treated fairly no matter who the applicant is.

"He (Bowman) will not be singled out for any special treatment," Clark said. "Everything will be done above board and everyone will be treated the same. Everyone, on both sides of the issue, will be treated with dignity and respect."

Bowman says because the new exposition center is a privately funded venture, he's "counting every dime" and making sure everything is right they proceed.

"We will be looking at every new potential for expense," Bowman said. "We are making sure that we take this thing very, very, very responsibly and make sure we have done everything before we have jumped off the platform so to speak."

The abatement would give the new exposition center approximately an extra \$73,000 a year that Bowman said is needed to procure the future of the new exposition center.

"We took each and every one of the criteria and broke it down," Bowman said. "I'm looking to take it to the next level. The key issue is that we grow in a logical way, in a feasible way. But there is no guarantee."

The criteria for the abatement states that any company that is given an abatement must employ a "significant amount of employees in the community." A minimum of 25 employees is required.

An abatement policy must have a minimum investment of \$10 million. Independent Michigan Consultants estimated that the new Expo Center could bring in an estimated \$100 million annually to the city of Novi. The site for the new Expo Center is located along Grand River northeast of Taft Road.

A public hearing on the Novi Expo Center tax abatement is scheduled for December 4. Council convenes at 8:30 p.m.

Randal Yakev is a staff writer for the Novi News. His e-mail address is ryakev@th.homecomm.net

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New center could bring more money to Novi

Continued on 1

ty, we'll put economic investment into the area. And more people will come to the builders show and the RV and camper show in an environment that is better than we are operating in right now."

According to a study by Michigan Consultants, the city of Novi receives approximately \$12,000 currently from the property where the new Expo Center is proposed. With the abatement, the city's revenue will come to about \$44,000.

"An abatement is a little bit of a misnomer," Bowman said. "People think that they are giving such a break and we're giving up so much. But the reality is that those properties (value) are going to jump three and a half times. The city will have a net increase of over \$31,000."

Bowman could receive approximately \$73,000 if the abatement is granted by city council.

Bowman also said, and Mayor Richard Clark agreed, that the property on which the new exposition center is proposed has had difficulty attracting investors.

"The city of Novi has gone through four zoning changes out there in the last four years on that property," Bowman said. "They have been trying to do something over the last twenty years and if something more dramatic happens, nothing will change. We've been through the most robust eco-

Randal Yakev is a staff writer for the Novi News. His e-mail address is ryakev@th.homecomm.net

Thomasville's Year-End Bonus Sale

BONUS SALE SAVINGS END
Monday, December 11th

preview event

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Library Lines

LIBRARY HOURS
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. The address of the library is 45245 W. Ten Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call 349-0720.

STORYTIME NOTES
Our regularly scheduled Storytimes will not be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5 due to a staff in-service day.

TINY TOT TIME REGISTRATION
Children ages 12-18 months are invited to join us for a half-hour of stories, songs and games on Friday, Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. Registration for the event begins Dec. 1. You may register in person or by calling the library. Space is limited however, so toddlers and caregivers only, please.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Our December selection is "The Tale of the Body Thief" by Anne Rice. The group meets Monday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. All are welcome.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

SENIOR BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Senior booklovers are reading "Amsterdam" by Ian McEwan. The senior group meets in the library meeting room on Thursday, Dec. 14 at noon.

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Andris still seeking properties

Continued from 1 plan that would not include a commercial project even though the property is zoned commercial. Andris has been trying to get a structure on that site for the past 14 years. Plans have been submitted to the city for at least three different projects.

First, Andris was to put a Greek restaurant on the site, then an soda and ice cream parlor and the current plan was a 10,000 square foot commercial building.

"I still have the right to appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals," Andris said.

Andris can still petition the commission to have the site plan for his project reviewed, according to city officials.

Staff Writer Stephanie Fordyce contributed to this report. *Ronald Yobey* is a staff writer for the *Novi News*. His e-mail is ryobey@th.honeweb.com

Sports club offers clinic

John Dr. George Nicoloff for the Sports Club of Novi's complimentary Sports Injury Clinic, Tuesday, December 5.

Entitled "Get Back in the Game," Nicoloff will be available for injury assessments along with recommendations for individual exercise programming.

Nicoloff has worked extensively with college and professional athletes and is the current team physician for Stevenson High School in Livonia. He is a board certified Family Physician and is a University of Michigan Medical School graduate.

Services provided at the sports clinic will include therapy instruction/referral, exercise prescription/counseling, and injury evaluation.

Dr. Nicoloff, who works at PrimeCare in Novi, also offers full service X-ray, casting and splinting, injections, and sports physicals in his office. PrimeCare is located on Ten Mile, just west of Haggerty.

The sports clinic runs from 7-9 p.m. by appointment and is open to both members and non-members.

The Sports Club of Novi is located off Novi Road between Nine and Ten Mile Roads.

Call now (248) 735-8850 to reserve your time.

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Chris Cramer, Pastor

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Bloomfield Hills 2274 South Telegraph Rd. 248-335-9900	Lake Orion 2531 S. Lapeer Rd. 248-393-6800	Sterling Heights 45111 Park Ave. 810-997-6500
NEW LOCATION Brighton 8159 Challis, Suite C 810-225-4793	Novi 43025 12 Mile Rd. 248-305-6600	Taylor 23495 Eureka Rd. 734-287-1770
Dearborn 24417 Ford Rd. 313-278-4491	Rochester Hills 3035 S. Rochester Rd. 248-853-0550	Troy 1913 E. Big Beaver Rd. 248-526-0040
Detroit 100 Ren. Cen. Ste. 144 313-568-8900	Southfield 26935 Northwestern Hwy. 248-915-3000	Westland 35105 Warren Rd. 734-722-7330
	28117 Telegraph Rd. 248-358-3700	

MALL LOCATIONS

Briarwood Mall 734-623-8620	Commerce 3301 Pontiac Trail 248-669-9860
Great Lakes Crossing Mall 248-975-6729	Howell 3599 Grand River E. 517-546-5611
Lakeside Mall 810-247-7286	Port Huron 4475 24th Ave. 810-385-7600
Northland Mall 248-514-4282	Warren 29240 Van Dyke 810-751-0747
Twelve Oaks Mall 248-735-3973	White Lake 9190 Highland Rd. 248-698-0043
	Ypsilanti 2515 Ellsworth Rd. 734-528-3137

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READ & RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

The Log Book

Monday, Nov. 20
Medical, 50450 Oregon, 5:35 a.m., Squad 4.
Medical, Beck and Grand River, 11:08 a.m., Squad 4.
Injury accident, Fall and Grand River, 11:44 a.m., Squad 1.
Medical, 27795 Novi Road, 12:57 p.m., Squad 1.
Medical, 42364 Park Ridge, 2:29 p.m., Squad 1.
Fire alarm, 27795 Novi Road, 2:53 p.m., Engines 1, 2.
Investigation, 43155 Main St., 3:44 p.m., Engine 1.
Medical, 47250 Ten Mile Road, 4:30 p.m., Squad 4.
Medical, 43180 Nine Mile Road, 9:47 p.m., Squad 3.
Tuesday, Nov. 21
Investigation, 44624 N. Hills, 3:03 a.m., Engine 3.
Medical, 45182 West Park, 11:31 a.m., Squad 2.
Medical, 44854 N. Hills, 11:43 a.m., Squad 3.
Dumpster fire, 43055 Elm St., 11:53 a.m., Engine 1.
Fire alarm, 43155 Main St., 12:12 p.m., Engines 3, 2.
Investigation/Medical, 43000 Nine Mile Road, 12:20 p.m., Squad 3.
Medical, 21354 Glen Haven, 3:26 p.m., Squad 3.
Investigation, 43334 Ashbury, 3:49 p.m., Engine 3.
Injury accident, I-96 and Beck Road, 5:02 p.m., Squad 4.
Medical, 29007 Montmorency, 5:35 p.m., Squad 2.
Medical, 43155 Main St., 6:40 p.m., Squad 1.
Medical, 43550 W. Oaks, 8:14 p.m., Squad 2.
Medical, 41550 Grand River, 9:57 p.m., Squad 1.
Wednesday, Nov. 22
Medical, 45182 W. Park, 11:01 a.m., Squad 2.
Medical, 29907 Montmorency, 9:24 a.m., Squad 2.
Medical, 45182 W. Park, 10:41 a.m., Squad 2.
Medical, 45182 W. Park, 11:01 a.m., Squad 2.
Medical, 43236 Eleven Mile Road, 11:51 a.m., Squad 1.
Medical, 47250 Ten Mile Road, 2:07 p.m., Squad 4.
Fire alarm, 23922 Greening, 4:10 p.m., Engine 3.
Medical, 22844 Cottage, 5:42 p.m., Squad 3.
Injury accident, Nine Mile and Brook Forest, 5:48 p.m., Squad 3.
Fuel spill, 26179 Novi Road, 6:33 p.m., Engine 1.
Thursday, Nov. 23
Car fire, I-96 and Beck Road, 12:19 a.m., Engine 4.
Medical, 31175 Portside, 12:20 a.m., Squad 2.
Medical, 24573 Bashian, 5:35 a.m., Squad 1.
Medical, 27750 Novi Road, 8:50 a.m., Squad 1.
Fire alarm, 44700 Grand River, 1:23 p.m., Engines 1, 4.
Building fire, 23674 Chipmunk Trail, 3:26 p.m., Engines 3, 1.
Fire alarm, 45225 Grand River Road, 10:49 p.m., Engines 4, 1.
Friday, Nov. 24
Investigation, 31145 Wellington, 6:49 p.m., Engine 2.
Medical, 42100 Grand River, 7:08 p.m., Squad 1.
Car fire, 20830 Woodland Glen, 7:14 p.m., Engine 3.
Fire alarm, 29927 Montmorency, 10:01 p.m., Squad 3.
Saturday, Nov. 25
Medical, 21555 Haggerty, 12:18 a.m., Squad 3.
Medical, 42700 Eleven Mile Road, 1:03 a.m., Squad 1.
Medical, 21555 Haggerty, 3:07 a.m., Squad 3.
Fire alarm, 45182 W. Park, 10:31 a.m., Engines 2, 1.
Building fire, 44845 Exeier, 6:04 p.m., Engines 3, 1.
Injury accident, Twelve Mile and Meadowbrook, 6:24 p.m., Squad 1.
Injury accident, Eight Mile and Haggerty, 7:03 p.m., Squad 3.
Injury accident, I-96 and Wkom, 11:26 p.m., Squad 4.
Sunday, Nov. 26
Medical, 26235 Virginia, 12:50 p.m., Squad 4.
Injury accident, 21070 Haggerty, 1:09 a.m., Squad 3.
Medical, 27790 Novi Road, 5:21 p.m., Squad 1.
Injury accident, Twelve Mile and Meadowbrook, 6:24 p.m., Squad 1.
Injury accident, Eight Mile and Haggerty, 7:03 p.m., Squad 3.
Injury accident, I-96 and Wkom, 11:26 p.m., Squad 4.

Community Education Briefs

Here's the upcoming events Community Education has to offer your young ones this December:

Painted Pottery Creations
This workshop will show that everyone can be an artist! Spend a special afternoon with your child while creating a work of art. Techniques include sponging, stamping and stenciling. Children will have a sense of accomplishment after creating something that is functional as well as fashionable on a pottery piece of their choice.

Class will be held December 5, at Novi's new Ready, Set, Paint! located in the Novi Town Center from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$20 for a parent and one child and \$10 for each additional child. A material fee of \$7 is also required.

Mind Your Manners
Keep yourself out of trouble and your home nice and peaceful by learning the manners and etiquette you need to keep your parents happy. Now, don't scream "NO WAY," this class is fun! Go beyond "please" and "thank you," learn how to behave at a party, how to greet people, how to accept a present that you absolutely can't stand, things to say in a "thank you" note, and what exactly to do with that kiss from your Aunt Millie. You'll also learn why manners are important to your school and social success. This class for grades K and up is just in time for the holidays.

Class will be held December 9, at Novi Middle School's teachers lounge from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$14. Bring a snack.

Holiday Balloons 101
Dazzle your friends with dinosaurs and dogs balloon figures. Produce a rabbit, a bird, or a really cool hat. If you've ever wondered how to make balloon animals and decorations, here's your chance. Learn how to blow up, tie and twist balloons into fun, creative, entertaining. Along with hands-on instruction, each child will receive a supply of balloons and a basic printed reference to continue the fun at home.

This class, for age 5 with a parent, will be held at Parkview Elementary on December 11 from 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$21 for parent and one child and \$13 for each additional child.

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Guidelines for no-shows at planning meetings needed

A recent planning commission decision to deny an applicant's request for site plan approval of a project has brought the issue of attendance by an applicant to the forefront.

Novi Planning Commissioner Vic Cassis spoke out when local developer Ted Andris failed to show for review on his commercial project.

At least the commissioners can ask the applicant his future intentions for the site - which could change, midway through the building process.

Cassis said that Andris has wasted an enormous amount of the planning commission time not appearing before the commission. What should be done is that a committee should be set up to come up with a list of possible actions that should be taken and those actions should be voted on by planning commission and city council.

There is no time to waste in either planning commission or city council chambers. Meetings are long enough without applicants merely not showing up when they feel they do not have to.

A firm set of guidelines needs to be made clear before the applicant applies for a request, which would ensure the commission and council have a smoother road in processes building requests. Also, if the commission's and council's time is wasted, a strong course of action should be taken to guarantee the petitioner will show up the next time.

Perhaps a monetary course of action would solve the problem.

It appears it's time for some standards to be laid down by the planning commission.

Cassis said that the planning commission needs to address such an issue and provide standards. It only seems logical that standards are implemented to keep applicants moving through the system.

Planning commissioners need to ask questions of applicants on various issues. Even if an architect provides the drawings, at

Dream a little dream with Novi Theatres

Novi, let's support our local community theater.

As always, the people in Novi have been working extremely hard to bring you plays that entertain and delight audiences of all ages.

On December 8, 9, and 10, the Children's Annex will present a wonderful holiday treat with their production of the fairy tale classic, The Nutcracker.

With a cast of characters and actors directed by Mary Kay Davis, this holiday favorite will surely find a spot in your heart.

However, the most recent productions, like The Dining Room, received little support or audience members.

The actors, directors, set and costume designers have always put forth all their time and energy to make each play an award winning performance.

When someone says 'support the arts,' they mean all the arts including music, performing arts (such as theatre) and artists including painters, potters and the like.

While this is community theatre, this is exactly the type of arts we should be supporting. Enriching the lives of our children and neighbors right in our own community.

It's been proven that the more people and especially young children are able to experience: the good things like traveling, concerts, and exotic food, the more enriched and better people they will be. They will be better prepared for the world around them.

Community theatre like the Novi Theatres and the theatre departments in the school districts bring experience to the actors and joy and entertainment to the audience.

Our theatres are an inspiration: a place to dream. Let's dream with them.

**NOTE: If you or a family member is interested in participating in any of the four Novi Theatre groups, call the Novi Parks & Recreation Department at (248) 947-0400.



Photo by JOHN HEBER

It's here
The cold weather and gray skies are ushering us into another holiday season as these gray and ominous clouds show in the southeast corner of Maybury State Park on Nov. 27. The upcoming forecast calls for colder than normal conditions towards the weekend with more potential for snowfall.

Communication key to school issue

So no one at Northville High School knew about this club for two and a half years?

Okay, let's look at that, shall we? Let's see, Nicole Pearce advertised for the club with flyers that had to be authorized by school administrators.

In October, I asked principal Tom Johnson if he'd signed the posters. He didn't think he did, so it must have been one of the assistant principals.

Okay, I asked Gail Weeks, assistant principal of NHS.

Nope - wrong again. She told me it must have been Denise Collins.

Well, Collins said he may have signed the posters, but he signs "thousands" of them and probably didn't realize what the club was.

He didn't realize what the club CONNECT FOR CHRIST was about.

Hmmm...well, maybe if they used initials C4C, as the club was known, I could see that, but then, wouldn't you ask, "hey - what's that stand for?"

This could have been any club. It could have been the "Crack For Children" Club. Not that apparently anyone at NHS would know because they didn't ask the question.

What else is going on there that they don't know about? To be fair, I can imagine it is a difficult task keeping track of more than 1,500 students, and I truly don't envy their job.

But when a student is putting a poster in your face, when she has a teacher sponsor - who according to Pearce was initially "very involved in the club" - when you have a detailed description of the club on the school's website, when you have 70 students regularly filling the drama room to talk about the Bible, I think it's fair to ask, "What else is going on that they don't know about?"

I make this point only because the district is in quite the quandary. For the last three years it has accepted taxpayer money for the seminar period. It has counted the period as instructional time and has been praised for it.

However, this case may prove that while the district's intentions of students using the time to get help in school were good, the reality is something much different.

Do they really know what is going on during seminar? Last year at this time, Johnson put several notes in the Mustang Messenger, the school's newsletter, reminding parents not to excuse their kids from seminar.

So many of them were leaving school during this time. It required several reminders over several months.

Next - the claim students are watching "South Park" and playing cards, and up until last week, holding clubs like SADD, MADD and High Adventure.

This is what your tax dollars are funding. I have no doubt that some, if not most students, are using this time for what it was intended, but the state may see it differently.

The state may say this is not their business. Melanie Plenda is a staff writer for the Northville Record and Novi News. Her e-mail address is mplenda@nhomecomm.net.

LETTERS

■ Don't forget the works of Mr. Smith

Mr. Toth's letter, printed in your paper on Nov. 16, was (almost) right on target. In his letter, he congratulated the Road Bond Committee members for their hard work. Well...most of them.

I'm sure Mr. Toth's letter was very appreciated by the committee members, however, he made a terrible mistake by (innocently, I'm sure) leaving out one of those diligently, hard working individuals. I'm certain Mr. Toth wouldn't want any member of that committee to be left out or not get his "slap on the back," as Mr. Toth put it. The name he forgot was Mr. Asa Smith.

I know Asa Smith to be a fine person, one of high integrity and standards. I also know that he would never go looking for a slap on the back...a simple "thank you" would be more than enough for Asa. I have listened on many occasions while Asa Smith commended the committee volunteers, all of them, and took no credit for his own efforts. The people of Novi should know the Road Bond Committee, all of them - including Asa Smith - worked long and hard and gave of their hearts to produce a better quality of life for Novi citizens.

So Novi, when someone speaks to you about the people behind the scenes who worked so hard, remember all those names. They are: Asa Smith, John

Chambers, Dick Faulkner, Jerry Coonce, Tom Marcus, Dale Myers, Dan Tagranti, Jerrold Hart, Toni Nagy and Joe Toth.

One note, our family business remains in Novi even though we have moved. I wish to thank the above people and the entire city for seeing to it that the roads many of us use daily will see improvement soon.

Well...most of them.

Ruth Hamilton
South Lyon

■ Thanks for raising my taxes

To Mr. Toth for the Citizens for the Roads: I give those people my thanks for raising my taxes. Mr. Toth, you live in the Village Oaks sub. What are you going to do for your sub? I believe the Road Bond will help the people near Beck Road.

Stephanie Fordyce would like to say go for the Road Bond. But I don't like my taxes going up again. I see you use these roads on a daily basis. I would like to see you pay for the roads.

Mr. Toth, some people work the night shift and cannot go to all your meetings. The mayor said we will not see any additional roads proposals for at least five years. But that is only one thing.

We will soon need another new school or "do it for the kids" again. Stop. I can't wait to see how the Road Bond

will help this end of Novi near Willowbrook sub 3.

Eleanor Thompson
Novi

Share your opinions

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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Novi News
104 W. Main
Northville, MI 48167
Fax:
(248) 349-9832

HomeTown COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Forecasters smell trouble

Economists like to play the "good news, bad news" game. And the economists at the University of Michigan are no exception to the rule.

In their most recent publication, "The Michigan Economic Outlook for 2001-2002," the U-M experts predicted our state's economy will remain strong next year but the rate of growth will start slowing down. Saul Hymans, Joan Cray and George Fulton have been looking at our state's economy for years; their forecasts are widely regarded as the best in the business.

Clearly, we have been enjoying the best economic times in most people's memories:

- By year-end, the Michigan economy will have turned in its ninth straight year of job growth, the longest run of prosperity in 50 years.

- Unemployment is at record low levels. As a practical matter, anybody who wants a job and has transportation can get one.

- In five of the past six years, the manufacturing workweek has been longer than for any prior year since 1970. Long workweeks means big overtime checks, not to mention bigger profit sharing payouts as the auto companies share good profits.

- Next year will be quite as good, according to the U-M experts:

- Auto and truck sales will slow down, the victim of increased interest rates, which make car payments more expensive. The auto companies are already trying to cope with a soft market by offering big cash incentives.

- Because auto sales will drop, manufacturing employment will go down. Michigan's unemployment rate, which has been below the national average for more than five years, will match it by 2002, with seven out of eight job losses coming from the durable manufacturing sector.

- Businesses already clamoring for skilled labor will face tight labor markets as they try to grow. The U-M economists point out that labor shortages will likely be one of the biggest barriers to growth next year.

- Things won't be all bad, though, especially as big investment decisions made in the last few years begin to be translated into bricks and mortar. General Motors' new assembly plant in Lansing will open sometime next year; GM also plans on spending \$1.5 billion on research and engineering facilities in southeastern Michigan. The Detroit Lions new football stadium is still under construction, and the \$1.2 billion renovation at Detroit Metro Airport will boost service employment in 2001.

- Five out of six new jobs in Michigan will come from the service and retail sectors, according to the U-M economists, which should result in a 3.4 percent unemployment rate next year, higher than this year but still lower than 1970. Rising labor and materials costs will increase the rate of inflation from 2.3 percent this year to 2.6 percent in 2001.

- For what it's worth, my own personal view is slightly less optimistic than the U-M forecast. I think the auto industry is facing big time problems and I figure most middle managers have become so used to good times they have little idea what to do when the economy turns south.

- The real interest rate (i.e. the difference between the prime rate the banks charge their best customers and the underlying rate of inflation) is very high by historic standards. High interest rates have already cut sharply into current sales. And it looks

Gambling claims more victims

What kind of a casualty rate are we willing to accept in our pursuit of a good time? James Dobson, the ultra-conservative president of Focus on the Family, phrased the question that way a year ago. He was referring to America's growing affinity for gambling despite the fact we know that some, typically 5 percent, will become compulsive about it and, as a result, lives will be destroyed.

Now more than ever, it is time we consider what our answer is going to be here in Michigan.

Legalized gambling claimed its latest victims last week in Farmington Hills. After returning from a trip to Las Vegas, Jihad Moukalled wrote out a note explaining that he had been gambling for over 10 years.

He succumbed to the practice is limited to the highest rollers. Westrin said they have to be regulars and have to pass a credit check. It isn't in the casino's interest to run players into bankruptcy because it has to count those markers as revenue and pay taxes on the amount regardless of whether it can collect, Westrin said. He was explaining the practice, not endorsing it.

Nevertheless, it seems to me that the practice is particularly well suited to the destruction of lives.

Many who have enjoyed even moderate success in life could make themselves look like high rollers for a time, but they'd be playing with their life savings. I doubt casino credit checks are designed to protect out-of-control gamblers from themselves. A gambler on the way down might be able to qualify for more credit then he or she could really afford to lose.

Not only could someone bet away a life

Here's what's happening in your city access channels.

The main ingredient for any project is teamwork. Since spring, the crew at Farmington Hills Channel 8 has been hard at work producing a Rouge Watershed program. Now in its final stages of production, "Storm Drains Aren't Garbage Cans" features "Drip, an animated character that encourages young and old to keep waterways clean.

The division received funding from the Rouge Project Office with the intention to increase awareness about the importance of clean, safe waterways in every community.

This program is ideal for senior citizens, people with serious medical conditions, or those living alone.

Watch November's episode of Streetbeat to learn more about this valuable safety program. Or to receive more information about the Vial of Life program, contact Officer Joyce Nelson or Officer Diane MacGregor at (248) 348-7100.

Throughout November, Farmington 15 is full of inspiring programs for the entire family. Witness first hand the triumph of over 200 American hopefuls at the "2000 Citizen Swear in Ceremony" that was held at the Costick

Vial of Life featured on public access

City of Novi's video division recently included a first look into the Vial of Life program on Streetbeat, a new show by the Novi police.

Center on Sept. 24 during the annual Heritage Festival.

Even though Sobor October has come to a close, it does not mean asset building has to stop on the road to an asset rich community or hop on board and catch Jim Conway's message from the "G.R.I.P. Kickoff" event that was held in the beginning of October.

Finally, sit back and relax for the latest installment of "Around Farmington." This month's episode features the tree carvings that outline the new play space in Shawneese park.

Channel 15 programming airs at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Caren Collins is the executive director for the Southeastern Oakland Cable Commission. She can be reached at (248) 473-7266, ext. 11. The next SWOCC meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 4:30 p.m. at Farmington City Hall. The next CAC meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at SWOCC.

Community EMS and the city of Novi's Senior Center.

City of Novi's video division recently included a first look into the Vial of Life program on Streetbeat, a new show by the Novi police. Novi Police Officer Joyce Nelson outlined the goals and performers of this life saving conception.

Vial of Life's goal is "to proactively identify and address the public safety and health concerns of our senior population." The program involves filling out specific medical information that emergency personnel can utilize in a life-threatening situation. The information is placed in an oversized Vial and stored in the participant's refrigerator door where it can be easily accessed by rescue teams.

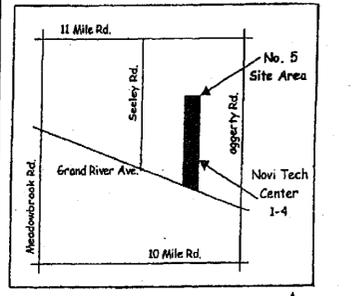
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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider, **NOVI TECHNOLOGY CENTER NO. 5, SP 000126**, located north of Grand River Avenue between Hesperity and Seasley Roads, for **PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN and SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVALS**. The applicant is proposing a 17,451 square foot one-story light industrial spec building.



Location Map

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning & Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 6, 2000.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
ROBERT CHUPELLA, SECRETARY
(1-300-00 NFRN 1015207)

NOVI NEWS

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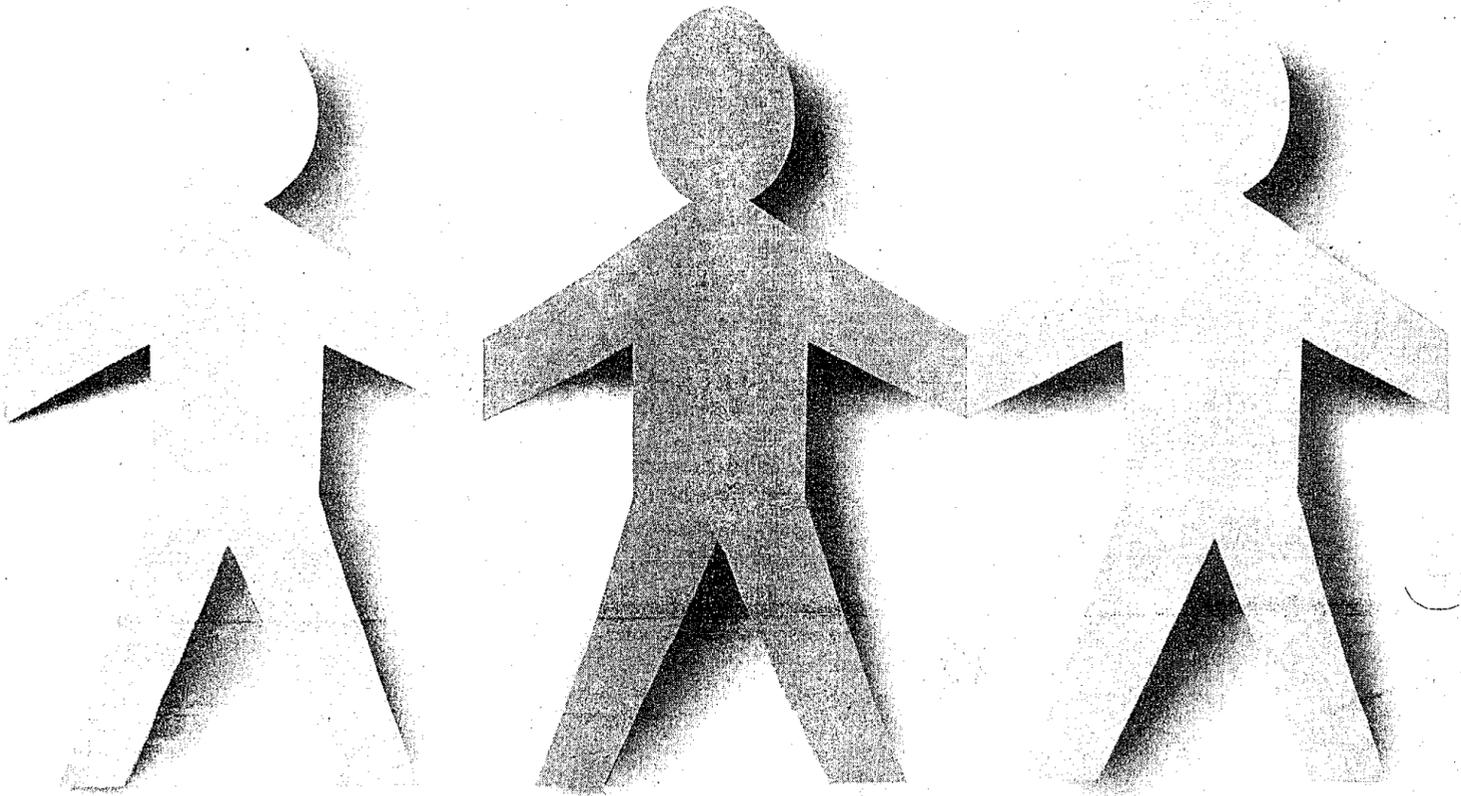
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Judged one of the best Lifestyle sections in Michigan

Thursday, November 30, 2000

Grand Celebrations

Meadow Brook Hall presents scenes from *A Charmed Life*



STAFF PHOTO BY DONNA McLAUGHLIN

Grand manner: Alfred Wilson's study was the site of New Year's Eve card parties. It is one of the rooms at Meadow Brook Hall decorated to recall celebrations of the Dodge-Wilson family.



Greenery galore: Meadow Brook Hall isn't the only beautiful home in the area open to the public this month. A house in Rochester Hills, one of the residences on this year's Holly Walk, is filled with decorated trees. The great room is shown above and below. For the story and more photos, please turn to page D2. Staff photos by John Stormzand.



BY MARY KLEMIC
 AT HOME EDITOR
 mklemic@oe.homecomm.net

Celebrate the holiday season in a grand manner, by visiting a grand manor. The 30th annual Holiday Walk at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester. *A Charmed Life: Celebrations in the Grand Manor*, opens Friday, Dec. 1, and continues through Sunday, Dec. 10. Visitors will have glimpses into celebrations by the Dodge-Wilson family at the mansion.

Oakland University founders Matilda Dodge Wilson and Alfred Wilson and their family lived in the 110-room mansion from the late 1920s through 1967. *A Charmed Life* will present vignettes recalling special occasions, arranged among elegant holiday decorations.

It was a charmed life. Family members traveled around the world, and in the winter, they rode a sleigh on outings. Frank Sinatra and Tommy Dorsey entertained for Frances Dodge Johnson's 25th birthday in 1939.

Photos and souvenirs, and objects from the Meadow Brook collection that are rarely seen — including the sleigh, and Frances Dodge's 1938 wedding dress — will be on view. Tables will be set as they might have been for Christmas and New Year's parties.

For example, the dining room table will feature a centerpiece of packages, each with a string leading to a place setting. This is in keeping with the family tradition of each person sitting at the table pulling the string to get his or her package.

For the holidays, the mantel in Alfred Wilson's study is laden with greenery decorated in silver and gold angels, ornaments, strings and tassels, similar to a tree in the window.

The family had a New Year's Eve card party in this room. After dinner and toasting the New Year, guests would play bridge.

"They had enough friends and family over for four or five sets of bridge," said Maura Overland, curator of collections.

"Richard (one of the sons) thought the parties were so nice he would bring dates back for them."

The lower level games room features molding with a checkered pattern accented with images of chess pieces. It contains unusual fur-

niture, including a chair with a bear figure forming the back and arms. Around a card table, which has recessed sections for the players' convenience, are chairs with pointed, cathedral-like arches.

For *A Charmed Life*, old Clue and Chinese Checker games are exhibited, along with a small table shuffleboard. The Christmas tree in the room is adorned with poinsettias, ribbons and holly.

Visitors will see the dress Matilda Dodge Wilson wore to Frances' debutante ball at the Book Cadillac Hotel in 1933. The event had a silver and dark theme; Matilda's silk and satin crepe dress is dark and features rhinestone accents.

(Frances' outfit included an orchid that had been dyed black. It was considered scandalous and shocked Detroit society, Overland said.)

Frances' bedroom is decorated in burgundy for the holidays. Among the decor are strings of glittering beads on a chandelier. As in other years, the decorating at the hall is done by Panache, designers from Georgia.

Hours for A Charmed Life: Celebrations in the Grand Manor are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (except for Wednesday, Dec. 6), with last admittance 4:30 p.m. Hours Wednesday will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., with last admittance at 8:30 p.m.

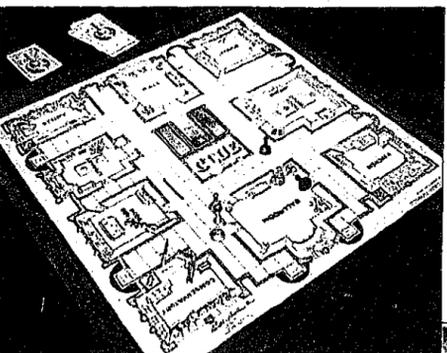
The Meadow Brook Hall Gift Shop, with new and unusual items added for holiday shopping, will be open during the Holiday Walk hours.

Admission — which includes admission to the Knole Cottage playhouse, where Santa will greet visitors — is \$12.50 for adults, \$6 for ages 12 and under, \$6 for OU affiliates with ID, \$10 for groups of 20 or more.

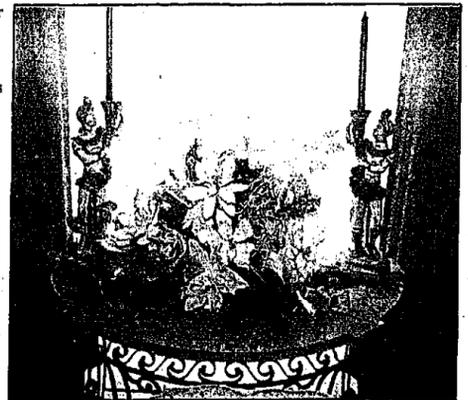
Black-tie holiday gala evenings are scheduled Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 and 2, with reception and touring 6:30 p.m. and dinner 8 p.m. An afterglow following dinner includes dancing. Cost per person is \$200 for patron, \$275 for benefactor. Advance reservations are required for the gala evenings.

Meadow Brook Hall is on the OU campus, off Adams, south of Walton. Call (248) 370-3140 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org

All proceeds from the Holiday Walk are used for the preservation and interpretation of Meadow Brook Hall.



Festive scenes: For *A Charmed Life*, the games room (above photos) at Meadow Brook Hall features holiday decor among the unusual furniture and board games. A bedroom (right) contains a smaller tree adorned in pastel shades. Staff photos by Donna McLaughlin.



INSIDE



HomeTown Authors
 John Ho, Novi Middle School student, describes how proud he is of his mom and aunt who made a fearful trek from Vietnam to America.
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Community Focus
 Deerfield Elementary students recently celebrated "Apple Day" with apples and paints.
 Page 5AA



Announcements
 Joseph and Mary Macura celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. See what other couples made announcements on...
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Community Focus

HONOR A LOVED ONE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Arbor Hospice is offering members of the community a unique opportunity to honor or remember a loved one this holiday season through the "Tree of Remembrance" program. By supporting the program, you receive a hand-crafted heart-shaped ornament and help Arbor Hospice ensure that no person in our community faces the end of life alone.

For more information about the "Tree of Remembrance" program, call Arbor Hospice at (734) 662-5999 or visit their Website at www.arborhospice.org.

NORTHVILLE CHOIR TO PERFORM AT ART VILLAGE

Guests are invited to visit Novi's Art Village store to enjoy holiday caroling performed by the Northville High School choir on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 7-9 p.m. For information, call the Novi location at (248) 348-8922.

BUILDERS HONORED

A group of local builders and other professionals will be honored Tuesday, Dec. 5 at the 2000 Leadership Recognition and Awards Night sponsored by the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan and the Apartment Association of Michigan.

The Developer of the Year award will be presented to Bernard "Kermit" Gleberman, president and sole shareholder of Crosswinds Communities Inc.

based in Novi. Gleberman is well known for his innovative construction of more than 10,000 homes throughout southeastern Michigan.

Gleberman and Sandee, his wife of more than 30 years, have two children: a son and a daughter - who is expecting her first child. Gleberman enjoys golf and collecting classic automobiles.

Other honors at the banquet will include: Outstanding Subcontractor of the Year award to Naida Bucsi, president of Revwalk Co. in Wixom; and Associate of the Year award to Myron Archambeau of FDI Group/George B. Ford Agency in Novi.

KINDERMUSIK

There will be a Snowman Sing-a-Long on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 4:15 p.m. at the Great Harvest Bread Co. 136 E. Main, Northville. For more information, call (248) 349-3934.

Also, a Snowman Sing-a-Long will be held Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. at Baby Baby Resale, 153 E. Main, Northville.

Jingling bells, floating scarves, seasonal stories and little feet moving in time to music - these are just a few of the sights and sounds parents and children will experience at Storytime with Miss Karen. Imaginative songs and chants highlight favorite children's books in these free 30-40 minute interactive programs. Karen Onikka Schamerberger is a licensed Kindergarten instructor at Evola Music of Canton. Registrations are

suggested. Please call (248) 347-2229 to register.

NORTHVILLE CANDELIGHT WALK

On Friday, Dec. 8, the NCBA welcomes the handcrafters and all holiday shoppers downtown for the annual Candelight Walk. The downtown streets will again glow with the light of luminaries flickering in the night.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., music will again fill the streets and carriage rides will be free. Santa will be at his house, and many stores will be open until 11 p.m. for those wishing to cross a few items off their holiday lists.

Join us in downtown Northville for unique shops, specialized services, terrific dining, and very special Christmas ornaments, Christmas cookies, Arbonne facial and skin care products, Discovery Toys and DK Books.

There will also be a "stocking stuffer" table filled with items donated by local merchants and a resale table. Gift-wrapping will be available for a small donation. The funds raised by this event go toward the children's Building Fund pledge.

Questions can be directed to Laura Steiner, youth group director at (248) 348-7291.

NEW HOPE HOLIDAY GATHERING

New Hope Center for Grief Support has planned a holiday gathering at the Country Epicure Restaurant in Novi on Sunday, Dec. 3. Knowing the holidays can be especially difficult for anyone who has lost a loved one, we are offering this special dinner for grieving men and women in a safe and caring environment.

For more information, call (248) 348-0115.

BUSINESS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Friday, Nov. 24 will be a Business Network International

regular meeting, 7-8:30 a.m. at Wixom Chapter, Leon's Restaurant, 29710 S. Wixom Road between Pontiac Trail and the Great Harvest Bread Co., and Farmer Jack on Haggerty Road at Six Mile.

If your group or family wishes to get in the holiday spirit and help someone at the same time, please call Judy Kohl, (248) 348-2678. Individuals are welcome as well. No previous experience needed.

YOUTH GROUP TO HOST SHOPPING SPREE

Holy Cross youth and teen groups will be hosting a Christmas Shopping Spree in the parish hall, from 2-6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. Holy Cross is located at 46200 W. Ten Mile between Tall and Beck.

We are looking for crafters or home sales people to rent tables for \$15 a table or a percent of their sales. Currently, we have tables for stuffed dolls, fatigue and Christmas, Christmas ornaments, Christmas cookies, Arbonne facial and skin care products, Discovery Toys and DK Books.

MARQUIS ACTORS TO PERFORM PINOCHIO

The remaining dates of "Pinochio" at Northville's Marquis Theater are: Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Jan. 6 and 13 at 2:30 p.m.; Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, Jan. 7 and 14 at 2:30 p.m.; and Tuesday through Friday, Dec. 26, 27, 28 and 29, also at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets to all performances are \$7.50.

SALVATION ARMY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

The Salvation Army is looking for a few good bell ringers for its Christmas Kettle Campaign. The campaign begins Friday, Nov. 24 and continues until Saturday, Dec.

23. The four sites in Northville for bell ringing are the Northville Post Office, Shopping Center Market on Center Street, the Great Harvest Bread Co., and Farmer Jack on Haggerty Road at Six Mile.

BLOOD DRIVE

A Red Cross blood drive will be held Thursday, Nov. 30, from 2-8 p.m. at Ward Presbyterian Church, Six Mile and Haggerty. Donors are needed. Please stop by and give the gift of life.

For special school dates and times, birthdays, group rates and reservations, call the Marquis Theater at (248) 349-8110. Please, no children under the age of 3.

ROCKY'S OF NORTHVILLE TO OFFER ENTERTAINMENT

The Michigan Christmas Show will be held at the Novi Expo Center from Nov. 30-Dec. 3. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the show will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-12 and \$4 and under 6 is free. Groups of 20 or more are \$5.50.

Larry Nozoro, renowned as one of the finest mainstream jazz alto saxophonists, along with the musicianship of pianist Terry Lewis, bassist Ray Tini, and drummer Jim Ryan will be performing at Rocky's of Northville the following Fridays and Saturdays from 8:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.

FRIDAYS, DEC. 15, 22, AND 29

Larry Nozoro has performed, toured and recorded with many of the major names in jazz and pop music, including Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, Sergio Mendez, Stan Kenton, and Henry Mancini. He has recorded several albums, including "Sphere," "Time Island," "Fever," "Grand Hotel," "Kaleidoscope," "Street of Dreams," and "Warm."

Nozoro received special recognition for his outstanding quality and entertaining musical performances when he was inducted into the Legends of Jazz International Hall of Fame. He has also received the "Spirit of Detroit Award" in recognition of exceptional achievement, outstanding leadership, and dedication to improving the quality of life.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

The Michigan Christmas Show will be held at the Novi Expo Center from Nov. 30-Dec. 3. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the show will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-12 and \$4 and under 6 is free. Groups of 20 or more are \$5.50.

Birth

Bob and Katherine Jackson of Novi announce the birth of their daughter, Katherine Elisabeth Jackson, on Oct. 23 at 2:45 p.m. in Farmington Hills.

Baby Katherine weighed 7 lbs, 4 oz and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Bob and Pat Jackson of Farmington Hills and Joe and Barb Pfeister of Novi. Great-grandmother is Nina Wild of Munster.



Katherine Jackson



Walsh College

Walsh College offers Professional Advancement Certifications and Technical Computer Training at both Troy and Novi campus locations. Certifications are available in a variety of computer and business management disciplines. Call the Walsh College Professional Services Department for further information and registration at (248) 689-8282, ext. 260 or fax, (248) 689-7816.

The following class is being offered at the Novi campus, 41500 Gardenbrook Road for the week of Dec. 11-15:

"Ways to Keep Good Employees." Good employees are invaluable. Retaining them is a priority. More money is not the key motivator for keeping a good employee. This class will run 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Novi campus. Call for further information. The cost is \$189.

CHRISTMAS TREE DIRECTORY

It's that time of year again! We will be publishing our Christmas Tree Directory. The standard size is that of a 2x2 classified ad. The directory will run between November 19 and December 21, 2000, (according to volume of advertisers) Sunday in The Livingston County Daily Press & Argus, and Thursday in the South Lyon Herald, Milford Times, Northville Record & Novi News.

ASK ABOUT GETTING YOUR TREE FARM ON LINE FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON. To Advertise Call Sandy at: 1-888-999-1288 ext. 227 Fax 24hrs: (248) 437-9460 or e-mail: spolers@nl.homecomm.net

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That's over 54,000 combined subscribers! • be given a number on our bright and colorful map to show your location, location, location! Deadline is Tuesdays at noon, except during holidays. Price and size of ad is subject to change according to volume of advertisers.

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Bring In This Coupon & Take An Extra 20% off Any Single Item (Excludes Sweaters)

Misses & Woman Sizes 4-24



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Page 54A Thursday, November 30, 2000

Trottin' for good causes Middle School walks to donate food to needy

BY STEPHANIE FORDYCE Staff Writer

Novi Middle School students accelerated into the spirit of giving last week as they participated in the Ninth Annual Turkey Trot, Wednesday, November 22.

Kicking off the event with a 2 K (1.2 mile) walk, the annual turkey trot donated more than 1,700 cans of food items and over \$300 to the Novi Emergency Food Bank.

"This is a great way to help those less fortunate and make sure that they have a good Thanksgiving," said eighth grader Billy Morrison. Over 850 students participated as they made their way around the school. Normally, the event is held outside, but due to the cold weather, the students were kept inside.

To be a part of the walk, the stu-

dents had to either bring in two canned goods or donate \$2.

After the walk and a congratulatory high-five from a special guest of honor, the students refueled with some cider and cookies before heading into the gym for some of the chance to win some raffle prizes, courtesy of area businesses.

The event not only helped raise food and money for other families, but also raised awareness of good physical fitness.

Team 7C was the top donating team in their school this year bringing in 362 cans.

Thirteen-year-olds Carlee Rodriguez and Chelsea Cracraft said they were proud to see so many students get involved and show their support.

"This is a great way to help those less fortunate and make sure that they have a good Thanksgiving."

Billy Morrison Novi Middle eighth grader

"It's great to see that the students care about helping the needy, especially over the holidays," said Rodriguez.

Cracraft said at the same time, it helps you realize how lucky you are and to reflect upon the things you have to be thankful for.

Both girls said they were thankful for their family and friends as well as being on the pom-pom squad.

For eighth graders Anthony Stebila and Eric Deighton, they too were thankful for good friends and family, along with good health.

Stebila said the Turkey Trot really helped kindle the share of giving.

"This is a fun charity event that we all are glad to be part of and lending a hand to those who are less fortunate," he said.

Stephanie Fordyce is a staff writer for the Novi News. Her e-mail address is sfordyce@nl.homecomm.net

Apple Day



Deerfield Elementary students celebrated "Apple Day" recently by estimating the weight of apples and painting with apple slices. Here, Kate Vallerand, left, Alyssa Lalton and Morgan Wang, right, have fun with paint.

Good Bye Vietnam

HomeTown Authors

By John Ho

One dark warm night in South Vietnam, my mom and aunt grabbed their belongings and rushed out to their awaiting boat. It was way past midnight. The streets were as crowded as the weekday rush hour. People everywhere were having fun. The only thing that was on my mom's mind was leaving for America. My mom had heard many stories about America and how great it would be. Still, my mom had to see it for herself to believe it. My mom and aunt were very nervous about the trip. To calm their fears down, my mom thought about how life could be better in America. At this time, it was illegal to leave the country forever. That's why my mom and aunt had to sneak on the boat. A citizen of Vietnam owned the boat and another citizen drove the boat. My mom had to pay a small fee to get a ride.

Then my mom and aunt got on the bus. Off they went to their awaiting boat. It was quite a distance from my mom's house to the boat. The distance was about 100 miles. My mom could not sleep at all. Now she was wide awake and ready to leave Vietnam. With crowded streets and small roads, my mom and aunt arrived after five long hours. She was also leaving her mom and dad. My mom was only 22 years old and my aunt was only 11 years old. There were about 20 people on the boat.

Police men were everywhere searching for illegal people that were



John Ho

leaving the country on boats. If you were caught you might go to jail for life! My mom was very afraid that it might happen. Then the boat went into gear. The boat sailed off to the open sea. Her fears started to float away as the boat got further away from land. My mom was very afraid and sad. She did not know whether she would survive or not. Also, she was sad because she was leaving her native land. The boat was very small compared with any ship. One day passed by as they were still alive. They stopped at every island to refuel and stock up on food. The boat was so small that there was no space to store food. Also, the boat was really crowded. Some people already got seasick. On the third day, my mom and aunt got seasick. They were really tired and worried that they would die. Then suddenly they had saw land. When they departed the ship, they soon found out that it was Malaysia. My mom and aunt were very fortunate to reach land without meeting any storms or getting shot down.

Now my mom's worries were gone. The Malaysians were very kind people and they were willing to teach my mom and aunt

Want to be a HomeTown Author?

We're looking for kids ages 8-18 who want to become HomeTown Authors. Prospective authors need to follow these steps:

- 1.) Write. Your entry can be a story or an opinion or an article about what's going on in your classroom. You pick the topic; after all, it's your work.
- 2.) Stories should be typed, if possible. If the story can't be typed, then it should be neatly printed on every other line of the paper.
- 3.) Stories should be between 300 and 500 words

Author's name: _____
Title of story: _____
Parent or guardian: _____
Parent or guardian signature: _____
Address (includes street, city and zip code): _____

Telephone number: _____
School: _____
Teacher: _____

English and get a job. My mom and aunt were studying and learning as much as they can about America and how to speak English. Three long months had passed by and now they were ready for their trip to America. Then they boarded a plane and off they went to America. Now the only thing they could hope for was a safe plane ride to America. Twenty long hours had passed by and now the plane was getting ready to land. As my mom peered out the window, she looked in shocked eyes. She couldn't

believe what she had saw. There were tons of sky scrapers and thousands of lights shining into the dark night sky. My mom said it was one of the most beautiful sights she had ever seen. It was amazing! My mom and aunt had a safe and successful trip to America. Now when I think of my mom, I am filled with respect and admiration.

John Ho is a seventh grader in Ms. Beth Little's language arts class at Novi Middle School in Novi.

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Do you have a "Severe Shyness" that affects decisions you make everyday. Pounding heart, blushing, shaking, leading to isolation.

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MOVIES

Page-6A

Thursday, November 30, 2000

Meet the parents during the holidays

De Niro, Stiller score big as they meet for the first time as future family members

Meet the Parents
MPAA Rating: PG-13
Now playing
Strongly Recommended

By Jennifer Norris
STAFF WRITER

In this tale of comedy, the cast of *Meet the Parents* is brought to life with the wit of actors Robert

De Niro, Ben Stiller, Blythe Danner, Teri Polo and Owen Wilson. *Meet the Parents* offers a humorous look at the familiar initial awkwardness at meeting future in-laws.

Stiller, who plays the role of Greg Focker, a down-to-earth male nurse, has fallen in love with Polo's character of Pam Byrnes. After Stiller learns the potential father-in-law requires

parental consent in order for Stiller to marry his daughter, Stiller and Polo head off to the parent's home where all the zany lines of dialogue and multiple uneasy moments unfold.

From the moment Stiller steps inside the front door, the hopeful groom is anxious to please and make a good impression. However, as the conversation progresses between Stiller and De Niro, the two delve deeper into comical misunderstanding and facetious wisecracks.

Even with the unending support and encouragement from his girlfriend and mom's approval, Stiller just can't seem to stop putting his foot in his mouth when speaking to De Niro.

Verbal pitfalls aren't the only problem facing Stiller. Around the house, Stiller constantly finds himself in the middle of a crisis.

While each disaster that plagues the Byrnes' household is cleverly filmed and ranks high for laughter appeal, the number of calamities he faces over a brief time span is difficult to imagine.

Among the disasters Stiller has to deal with include wearing the

Meet the Parents



family's clothing since the airline lost his luggage, knocking over and shattering an urn filled with grandma's ashes, inadvertently setting a relative's wedding present on fire, losing the family cat, and somehow the septic tank underground mysteriously backs up.

Not only does Stiller seem branded as a bad luck charm, other family members constantly taunt him about his profession as a nurse and his character's last name.

As the tension and miscommunication mounts between Stiller and the rest of the Byrnes' family, he doubts if he will ever be able to win the respect and permission needed to marry Polo.

Meet the Parents is a comedy-packed movie, filled with wisecracks, jabs, and never-ending disasters.

Although the amount of calamities Stiller is involved in steps beyond the normal scope within a brief weekend time span, the movie offers viewers a familiar foothold by looking at the common feeling of uneasiness and

anxiety in meeting the parents.

Jennifer Norris is a reporter for the *Milford Times*. She can be reached for comment at 248-685-1507 or by e-mail at jnorriss@ht.homecomm.net



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AMC LIVONIA 20	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	BIRMINGHAM 8
CANTON 6	MJR SOUTHGATE 20	NOVI TOWN CENTER 8
QUO VADIS	SHOWCASE ALBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE PONTIAC 1-5	SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS	STAR FAIRLANE
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
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SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC 6-12	SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.
STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR
UA COMMERCE STADIUM	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER	NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS

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Clawing their way to the top



Junior Mustang forward Peter Klausler takes a shot during pre-season practice.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Four Wildcats make All-Area for the soccer team of 2000

For the first time in quite a while, HomeTown's East division had a district soccer champion other than Novi or Northville.

That's good news for those up in Milford, who saw their team knock off Clarkston — in a shootout — to win the district, then gave state-ranked Midland Dow all it could handle in the regional.

As for Novi and Northville, their seasons ended in the district finals, where the Wildcats fell to Brighton and the Mustangs lost to eventual state champion Brother Rice. No shame in either case.

Like Milford, Lakeland and South Lyon both played under first-year coaches in Mark Janssen and Tracee Senter. And both teams showed marked improvement. Lakeland was, literally, twice as good in every statistical category from the previous season. And with a roster comprised mostly of underclassmen, the Eagles look like they'll no longer be anyone's pushover.

South Lyon, once players and coach became acclimated, proved that it could play with anyone in the league. The Lions beat Brighton once, tied the Bulldogs on another occasion.

The following players, so responsible for their teams' various successes, make up our all-area soccer team.

Sean Thompson
Novi senior

If it seems like Thompson's been around forever, well he has. Almost. Thompson is a three-year letter-winner who contributed to the 'Cats 1998 state championship, but led the team as a senior.

He scored three goals and assisted on 10 others, earning himself a spot on the All-KVC first team. In leading Novi to the district final, he also was voted to the all-district and all-region squads. Finally, the state recognized him as a member of its honorable-mention team.

"He was our MVP because he could control and possess the ball better than any player on our team," his coach Brian O'Leary said. "He worked incredibly hard in practice and did the same in the games and yet he never missed a game."

Nick Sloan
Novi senior

He and his partner in net P.J. Calandro were flawless in over half of their team's games this year, combining for 13 shutouts in 20 games.

Sloan allowed nine goals in 10 games, many of which were against Novi's top opponents. He had five shutouts in those contests. Sloan was one of six Wildcats to earn all KVC first-team honors.

"When he was healthy, he had the ability to win soccer games for this team," O'Leary said. "Nick has the ability to save balls that leave you shaking your head wondering how he did that. P.J. was a vital asset to the team. When Nick was hurt, we didn't miss a beat."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Chris Schleuder tries to beat a Walled Lake opponent to the ball during a matchup.

Tim Kelleher
Northville senior

His numbers aren't always indicative of what Kelleher means to his team out on the field. The senior is a four-year letter-winner who earned all-state honors for his efforts this season.

The senior midfielder scored nine goals and was named to the all-district and all-regional squads en route to his third-team all-state honor. Playing in perhaps the best soccer conference in the state of Michigan, Kelleher earned his second-consecutive spot on the Western Lakes Activities Association first team (12 players selected from among 12 schools).

"He's got some tough shoes to fill," his coach Henry Klimes said. "Our team plays well when Timmy plays well."

He's still considering his college choices, which include both Michigan and Michigan State.

Eric Bitell
Northville senior

It's common knowledge that scoring goals are important. But playing sound defense is of equal importance and it's hard to find someone who understood that more than Northville sweeper Eric Bitell. The senior was a three-year starter in the heart of the Mustangs' defense, and helped the team to its stellar defensive efforts in 2000. With Bitell in the middle, Northville allowed just 22 goals all season long.

He was an all-division selection in the Western Lakes and went on to earn all-district, all-region and honorable-mention all-state honors. He is considering continuing his soccer career at the University of Michigan or Madonna.

Jon McClory
Northville senior

"He was a tremendous part of our success this year," said his coach.

That's the truth. McClory started all but one game for the 10-6-3 Mustangs. In the teams' 20 games this season, their opponents scored 22 goals. Northville's worst defeats of the season came to Plymouth Salem and Novi, both by scores of 2-0. McClory kept his team in close losses to Stevenson (1-0) and eventual state champion Brother Rice (1-0).

"When your team has a breakdown, you have to have this kind of goaltending," Klimes said. "He's one of the best technical goalies I've ever coached."

Chris Immel
Milford senior

"Chris was the spark that turned things around for us," Redskins coach Larry Lorenz said of his senior midfielder. "He was a team captain and a real leader. Chris is a tireless worker who could play the entire game at midfield. I rarely had to substitute for him. He has excellent ball-handling skills and is very fast."

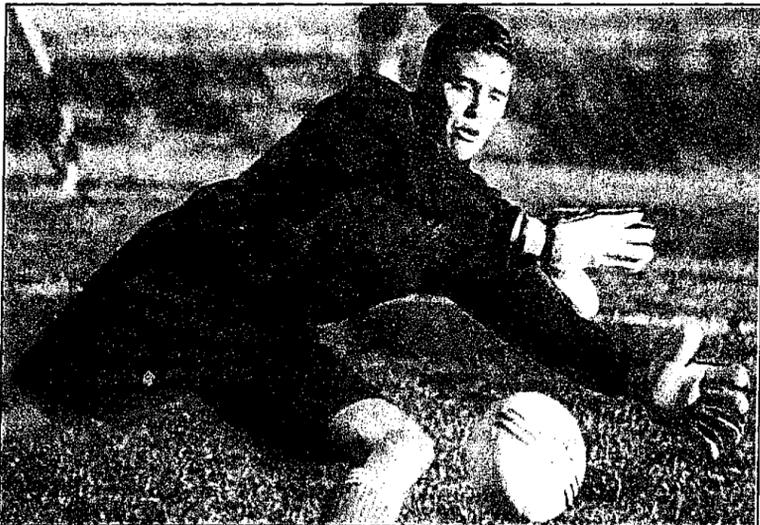
Immel was named Milford's Player of the Year. He was an all-district and all-conference selection.

Adam Kowalczyk
Milford senior

With Kowalczyk and fellow team captain Chris Immel at midfield,

"He has great ball skills," Milford coach Larry Lorenz said. "He's quick, an excellent passer and moves well. He and Chris could overlap and switch offensively and defensively. Adam was our most skilled player at trapping the ball — he could control difficult passes."

Continued on 2



Northville's goal keeper Jon McClory warms up during a pre-season practice.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER



A Northville and Novi player fight for the puck in a matchup last season

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Mustangs put Milford on ice, 3-2

By CHRIS C. DAVIS
Editor

Any time a team comes off a tough loss against a rival, the response from players for the following game is tops on a coach's mind. The Mustang hockey team answered a lot of questions for both Brad O'Neill and itself by beating Milford 3-2 Friday night.

Northville jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first period, courtesy of goals scored by junior center Tim Hillebrand and senior right wing Rob Ryan. Hillebrand wormed his way around a Milford defender to put his shot in net, while Ryan pulled a bit of wraparound trickery to beat the goaltender.

The 'Stangs had 14 first-period shots to the Redskins' six.

"We had a lot of offensive chances in this one," O'Neill said. "I thought that from that standpoint, we played much better than we had against Novi."

"We had a gameplan for this matchup and we stuck to it."

Brad O'Neill
head coach, Northville Mustangs hockey

That comfort gap diminished a bit in the second period, when Milford's Darren Terry took advantage of a miscue in Northville's transition game and made the Mustangs pay for it on a two-on-one break down the ice to put one on the board for the visitors.

"We got caught and they made the most of it," O'Neill said.

Scoring would remain idle through the remainder of the second period and early into the third, until Milford was able to make the most of Northville's having two players in the penalty box. The five-on-three advantage proved to be too much, and Terry once again came through for Milford, evening the score at

2-2.

But the orange and black fought back, courtesy of tough defense and crisp passing. With 3:30 remaining in the third stanza, senior defenseman Mike Stewart ripped a shot off from the point, which got some help from a bad deflection, and eased its way behind the pipes.

"We had a gameplan for this matchup and we stuck to it," O'Neill said. "We moved the puck much better than we had before, and that created the kind of offensive chances you need to win games."

Northville's defense was not only strong out on the open ice, but also in net, where sophomore goaltender David Ely-Bond

stopped 17 of the Redskins' 19 shots.

"We didn't have as many turnovers as we had before, and I was really happy with our passing game," O'Neill said. "Our defense, though, was the key to this game, not only from an individual standpoint but also our play as a team."

O'Neill said putting 30-plus shots on the opposition in the same game where 20 or fewer are allowed was often a formula for a victory.

The Mustangs will now go on the road to face Plymouth Canton this Saturday at 6 p.m. in the first league matchup of the season.

"[Canton] has improved quite a bit from last year," O'Neill said. "We'll have to put in several good practices to be ready for them."

Chris C. Davis is the editor of the Northville Record. He can be reached at cdavis@ht.homecomm.net.

Ahead of the pack... All-Area Cross Country



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Next week, watch for boys and girls All-Area cross country as the Novi News names the top runners in the KVC.

All-Area soccer picks named

Continued from 1

Milford's best all-around player, Kowalczyk was an all-district and all-conference pick.

Mike Crawford Novi Junior

Another one of the works of art created through the "Novi soccer system," Crawford asserted himself as not only one of Novi's best players, but one of the best players in the KVC.

Crawford played defensive midfield last year, but moved up to an offensive midfield slot this season. When Brandon Davis went down to a season-ending injury midway through the year, Crawford stepped in and performed brilliantly at the forward position.

"Compare him to other forwards in the area and I bet his stats are still better even though he played only half the season at the position."

He led the conference champions with 14 goals and nine assists at the forward position. He was a first-team all-league selection, and earned all-district, all-region and honorable-mention all-state hon-

ors as well.

Chris Schleuder Novi senior

His coach called him the most important player on the 17-3-1 Novi roster. He made the jobs of Nick Sloan and P.J. Calandro much easier with his play in the sweep position.

"When he was healthy he could shut down the other teams' best forward. When he was not healthy or not playing, we didn't have anyone else who could do that," O'Leary said.

For his efforts, he was rewarded with all-KVC and all-district honors this season.

Kris Janssen Lakeland Junior

A team co-captain, Janssen, a junior, excelled for the Eagles at midfield.

Janssen was named Lakeland's top playmaker and most valuable player. He was named to both the all-conference and all-district teams.

2000 ALL-AREA SOCCER

First Team

Name	School	Grade
Tim Fisher	Northville	Senior
Eric Biell	Northville	Senior
Jon McClary	Northville	Senior
Chris Imell	Milford	Senior
Adam Kowalczyk	Milford	Senior
Jonathan Hernandez	South Lyon	Senior
Kris Janssen	Lakeland	Junior
Chris Schleuder	Novi	Senior
Sean Thompson	Novi	Senior
Mike Crawford	Novi	Junior
Nick Sloan	Novi	Senior

Second Team

Name	School	Grade
Daisuke Matsura	Novi	Senior
P.J. Calandro	Novi	Senior
Keith McCaffery	Milford	Junior
Mike Carter	Milford	Senior
Zach Lane	Lakeland	Sophomore
Sean Flattery	Lakeland	Sophomore
Robert Bills	South Lyon	Junior
Adam Schaefer	South Lyon	Freshman
Dustin Kubas	Northville	Senior
Peter Klausner	Northville	Junior
Lauren Schieh	Northville	Senior

Honorable mention

South Lyon - Paul Bursick, Brian Marhofer, Ryan Crook
Milford - Ryan Baker, Jim Sare, Lance Jambeck
Novi - Jack Tyler, Derek Cole
Northville - Kyle Diehne
Lakeland - Shayne Dove, Mike Klausner, Kevin Tucker

Sidelines

The Michigan Motion Girls' Amateur Athletic Union basketball league will hold open tryouts on Dec. 9 at Novi Middle School, at the corner of Eleven Mile and Wixom roads. For more information, call (248) 486-1515 or (248) 474-8986.

Put One In The Upper Deck. The indoor baseball/softball training facility located in downtown Northville (235 E. Main St.) will be conducting its fourth annual holiday camp. The camp will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 27 - Friday, Dec. 29 (softball camp) from 9 a.m.-noon; Baseball/Softball on Dec. 26, 27, 28, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Ages: 7-18 years. Instructors will include former/current college-high school coaches and professional players from the Montreal Expos.

University of Detroit, Henry Ford Community College and more. Players will learn the proper techniques of pitching, hitting, fielding plus other skills. Pitching speed will be recorded. Individual drills will be given to increase proper mechanics, arm/bat speed and strength. Registration fee: \$10 per player/\$10 discount for second child. Call Total Baseball, (248) 688-

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Baseball Catching Camp

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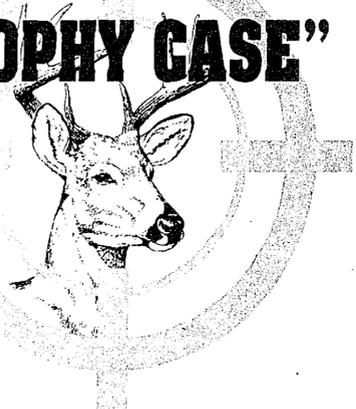


Name	Age	Address	Phone
Jason Schmitt	5-6		
Bob Jackson	4-6	74-56 (6)	
Chris Davis	6-4	81-49 (5 tie)	
John Heider	8-2	81-49 (5 tie)	
Kelli Cooley	7-3	83-47 (4)	
Randal Yakay	7-3	87-43 (2)	
Kevin Meak	6-4	84-46 (3)	
The Flip of the Coin	6-4	69-61 (7)	

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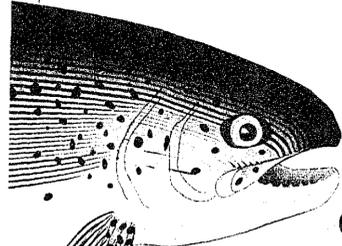
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Adaption key to Milford's basketball success

By STEPHEN BELL Sports

A perennial contender in the KVC, Milford must replace four stalwart players and one anterior cruciate ligament from last year's team. Only three Redskins players have varsity experience. But coach Don Palmer isn't phased.

"We're somewhat small and lack experience," he said. "How soon these kids adapt to varsity ball will tell the tale. I don't mind a young team. You challenge them, and see if they'll respond."

Milford will have a chance to respond early. The December schedule is brutal. Playing without sophomore Jim Presley — the team's one legitimate post player, recovering from a broken wrist suffered during football season — the Redskins open up at Walled Lake Central, which has 6'9" senior Mark Bortz, then go to Brighton, which has 6'10" junior Chris Grimm, then host South Lyon, the two-time defending KVC champion.

Ideally, the Redskins would like to press these teams.

"But you have to rebound to press," Palmer said. "This team might never get a rebound."

"Therefore, Milford may go in the opposite direction."

"We may have to play a halfcourt game — slow it up, keep the score down so we have a chance at the end," Palmer said.

Milford finds its most experienced players on the perimeter. Senior Mike Crowley was the starting point guard last season before tearing his ACL in March. Palmer says he's about 70 percent of his former self. Which is still pretty good.

"He's the brains of the outfit. Mike passes the ball well. He's a real smart player. He's one of our few experienced kids, so he's gonna play. He won't be explosive off the dribble and sometimes we may have to play some zone to protect him."

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Previous championships gives South Lyon cagers an edge

By STEPHEN BELL Sports

The voices are largely new. But for South Lyon — a program with two conference championships and one district championship the last two seasons — the song remains the same.

"We have four quality seniors and 12 juniors," South Lyon coach Daren Clayton said. "I'm really excited about the Juniors, who were eighth-graders when I got the job."

"That group went 15-4 last year in junior varsity competition. The Juniors come in expecting to excel. Since entering high school, all they've seen is excellence from the teams ahead of them."

"Two things stand out about this group," Clayton said. "One, they are full of personality and fun to be around. In practice and off the court. Two, they are very intelligent. Drills that took past teams awhile to understand, they've gotten in 15 minutes. They're attentive and learn quickly."

"That's particularly important given

A third-consecutive title is no mean task. Novi's J.V. team is even better. Milford is a perennial contender and had a strong summer. Brighton has the best player in the league in 6'10" junior Chris Grimm.

Still, the Lions have three tangible objectives which, if met, could make them the class of the league:

• Lead the KVC in rebounding. A number of times last year South Lyon was out-rebounded, but still managed to win. There's no excuse this season, as there is more size than on any of Clayton's previous teams. In the frontcourt at any given time there could be players 6'5", 6'3" and 6'2". And that's not even counting the team's best rebounder, 6'1" senior Tony Kern.

"I'm proud of how we've controlled the boards in our scrimmages," Clayton said.

• Hold opponents to no more than 45 points a game. No team in the KVC puts on the pressure with as much tenacity as the Lions.

• 70 percent foul shooting. That's particularly important given

South Lyon's penchant, with a lead, for pulling teams out, then driving.

Two of the starting positions are set — junior David Flynn at point guard and Kern at power forward. Kern saw significant playing time last season up front for the Lions. He's the team captain.

"Tony's a very strong post player," Clayton said. "He's very athletic, a great rebounder. He's learned to use his weight and strength on the boards. There will once again be a Flynn at the point, where David succeeds brother Pat."

"David's a tremendous ball-handler and a great decision-maker," Clayton said.

The center position will be manned by Matt Friel, a 6'3" junior, and P.J. Ingles, a 6'5" senior.

"Matt's a great kid," Clayton said. "He's worked very hard on his game. He's gone to some big man camps. He can use both hands and is a real threat around as much tenacity as the Lions."

Ingles is a four-year varsity veteran. His name is familiar. But this

season his game might not be.

"P.J.'s special to me," Clayton said. "My first year, he was on the varsity as a freshman. This guy's improved so much and he has developed into a team leader. He has become an offensive threat and is a tremendous post defender. I'm really proud of his growth."

At the wing forward there is Adam Vetrode, a 6'2" junior, and Stu Utley, a 6'0" junior. They provide the team two different talents.

"Adam is a complete offensive player," Clayton said. "He's a great outside shooter, he can drive and he can post up. 'Stu is mentally tough. He's not afraid of anyone. He has the toughness to guard anyone."

Joining these two on the wings are guards Jamie Gasparella, a 6'0" junior, and Mike Grihorash, a 6'2" senior.

"Mike is a strong offensive player," Clayton said. "He's a good three-point shooter and a slasher to the basket

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Stroke survivors gaining strides with new therapy

Rewiring a damaged brain: U-M offers therapy that helps stroke patients regain use of weakened limbs.

Some stroke survivors at the University of Michigan are getting back control of their weakened arms, hands and legs months or years after their stroke, with the help of an unconventional therapy based on new knowledge about the brain's ability to overcome damage.

Instead of giving up on some stroke patients' weakened limbs, a U-M Health System team is challenging them to use their "bad" side by temporarily hampering their "good" side — essentially making the brain rewire the nerve connections that control the muscles.

The approach, available at only a handful of centers around the country, is called constraint-induced therapy, or CIT. It's based on recent discoveries that a stroke-damaged brain may indeed be able to recover some lost control, via repeated use of the limbs left limp by the stroke.

The U-M's CIT regimen covers the "good" limb with a glove for two weeks, causing the patients to use their impaired sides in everyday activities and therapy. Usual stroke rehabilitation therapy mostly focuses on the unaffected limb and helping the patient adapt to one-handed techniques.

Sharon McDowell M.D., a member of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation who works with therapists at the UMHS MedRehab clinic, said chronic stroke survivors who have responded to CIT have returned to caring for themselves, driving and working.

"CIT seems to give really good results for a lot of patients even when they're pretty far out from the injury," McDowell said. "I've had patients who are 5 to 10 years out, have never been able to use their right arm, and CIT has helped them start to use it again, and they're very thankful. It's exciting because we see these dramatic results, yet we still don't understand how it works."

Since stroke is a leading cause of serious disability, rehabilitation experts are intrigued by CIT's promise. More than 730,000 Americans suffer strokes each

year, and half a million of them survive with significant physical or mental effects. The cost of their care and lost productivity runs in the billions. CIT, which McDowell estimates could help 10 to 20 percent of stroke survivors, could make a big impact on helping patients return to their pre-stroke activities.

McDowell's approach to CIT is somewhat similar to techniques used at the University of Alabama, where last summer researchers reported good results from a small trial. But the U-M program, started in 1999, is not as lengthy or as intense, and is covered by most insurance companies as part of rehabilitation. It's aimed at those who had their strokes more than six months before.

All CIT, McDowell explained, is based on recent scientific findings that challenge conventional thought about how the brain and body's network of muscle-controlling nerves respond to damage caused when a stroke interrupts blood flow to parts of the brain.

"The prevailing medical belief has been that the brain and the central nervous system are hard-wired from one part of the brain to one part of the body," she said. "So, when somebody had a stroke that affected the left side of the brain and caused the right arm and leg to become weak, the focus for rehabilitation was to support the right arm so that patients wouldn't get pain syndromes or experience a drooping of the shoulder. Then, we would teach the left hand to take over functions, even for people who are right-handed."

But with new knowledge about the brain's ability to work around a problem — a property known as plasticity — CIT is gaining attention. "It turns out that your brain does adapt to the changing environmental stimulation around you, and it seems to adapt in a number of ways," McDowell said, who began studying plasticity in the early 1990s at Temple University in Philadelphia, has taught other physicians how to use the therapy.

She and the U-M therapists help patients use their brains' plasticity by hampering their "good" hand with a cloth and mesh cover that

Facts about stroke and constraint-induced therapy:

- Stroke hits one American every minute, for a total of approximately 730,000 new or recurrent strokes each year. It is a leading cause of disability in the United States.

- The total cost of stroke to the United States is estimated at about \$43 billion per year,

including direct costs for medical care and therapy (\$28 billion) and indirect costs of lost productivity and other factors (\$15 billion.)

- Constraint-induced therapy was originally developed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham based on research by scientists there and in Germany.

makes it impossible to grasp, point or grip. Some patients compare it to an oven mitt or a boxing glove.

Patients wear the constraint for two weeks, for 23 hours a day, and keep a log of what they are able to do with their weak limb. On three days of those weeks, they come to the U-M for two-hour physical therapy and occupational therapy sessions. They also participate in six group sessions with other patients who are also undergoing CIT, doing practical things like playing cards and making cookies. The U-M also offers other types of post-stroke rehabilitation, aimed at everything from recovering patients, as shown by tests conducted before and after they begin CIT. Patient Robert Callen, for example, is recovering well from a 1999 stroke because of CIT and other therapies.

"My left side was completely paralyzed and I was bedridden," he said. "Now, I've come this far that I've been able to open the hand and do different things with it. I'm able to drive and get around, and this program has enabled me to use my left hand more than ever."

As effective as CIT seems to be, its exact mechanism isn't clear. "There are a lot of theories around from different fields of medicine, and also from the study of learning," McDowell said. "Some of the theories suggest that there's another part of the brain that can control motor function that is uncovered with practice. Another theory is that the brain starts to change and mold, with regrowth of neurons into new areas of the brain."

A third idea is based on the way learning takes place in the brain, by the repetition of actions that

are either encouraged by outside forces, or the lack of repetition of discouraged actions.

"This model says that even though some of the brain may start to recover after a stroke, if the patient has learned through positive reinforcement to use the good arm, and through negative reinforcement to not use the weak arm, we need to retrain the person to try to use the arm, to exercise it, and to develop coordination again," McDowell explained.

Whatever the cause, CIT researchers think the therapy is not suited for rebuilding muscle control from nothing — it's best if there's some glimmer of movement to start from.

But McDowell said, even spasticity can be treated with the help of medications, electrical stimulation and other treatments, to try to uncover hidden voluntary movement. Others with coordination problems can also benefit. Besides stroke, she is seeing good results in CIT patients who have suffered a traumatic brain injury, or who have post-amputation pain or dystonia, a neurological disorder that causes involuntary muscle movement.

Concluded McDowell, "This isn't a program for everyone, but I don't recommend people rule it out without seeing a physician to evaluate them for movement and spasticity."

University of Michigan Health System

Call TeleCare for more information at 1-800-742-2300, category 1010. This information is now available through Dec. 3. Or call Dr. McDowell's office at (734) 647-6954.

Health Notes

The following programs will be held at Novi Park, Providence Medical Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi. Call 1-877-345-5500 for more information unless otherwise noted.

• Oct. 12, 7 p.m. "Fit After Fifty"

This free program will present current concepts in safe, effective exercise for generalized strengthening and cardiovascular fitness geared for the individual over 50. The lecture/participation format will include issues in flexibility and strengthening/conditioning. All welcome.

• Oct. 17, 7 p.m. "Arthritis"

Learn more about treatment options, pain management, current arthritis medicine, hip and knee replacement, and more. Presented by Drs. David Markel and Michael Hayes. Free program. Registration is required. Call above number.

• Oct. 18, 4:30-6:30 p.m. "Meal Planning and Exercise Tips for People with Diabetes"

An informative evening on how to improve your blood sugar control with helpful eating ideas. A \$5 fee. Registration is required. Program will be held at Novi/Providence Medical Office Center, 39500 W. Ten Mile (at Haggerty Road), Novi.

• Oct. 18, 6-9 p.m. "Baby-Sitter Class"

There is a \$20 fee. Registration is required. This course is intended for those 12 and over who will be baby-sitting independently. Instruction on basic baby-sitting skills including child and home safety, first aid and child care will be covered. The class will be one session.

• Oct. 19, 7-8 p.m. "Pre-Marriage Classes"

Couples applying for a marriage license must show proof that they have received counseling regarding the transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. Individuals will be issued a certificate as proof of participation in this class. A certificate is valid indefinitely.

Registration is required. A fee of \$25/couple; \$15 single. Held at Novi Park.

• Oct. 28, 7 p.m. "Latest Advances in Exercise for Low Back Pain"

This free lecture/demonstration is for all individuals interested in preventing low back pain, especially

those with pain that interferes with daily living, sports or occupation. Registration is required.

• Adult Attention Deficit Disorder Support Group

Second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 7 p.m.

For adults with attention deficit disorder. Mutual support for members and their family.

This free program will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road at Taft Road, Northville. For information, call (734) 427-5692 or (248) 553-2923.

• Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Tuesday and Thursday at noon. Free program. Novi Providence Medical Office Center, 39500 W. Ten Mile (at Haggerty), Novi. Call (248) 348-9362 for information.

• Cancer Support Group

A free program for adult cancer patients and significant others. First and Third Tuesday of every month, from 6:30-8 p.m. Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi.

• (MDDA) Manic Depressive - Depressive Association of Metro Detroit

First and third Wednesdays of every month at 7:30 p.m. Free class. Call (248) 960-1288 for more information.

This free program will be held at Novi/Providence Medical Office Center, 39500 W. Ten Mile Road (at Haggerty), Novi.

• Menopause Support Group

First Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. This free program will be held at 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi. For more information, call (248) 424-3348.

• Overeaters Anonymous

Free program, meets every Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Novi Park; Providence Medical Center, address above.

Two helplines: (248) 424-5342 or (248) 474-9456.

• Parents Supporting Parents

Fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Free program.

Those coping with the loss of an infant through miscarriage, stillbirth, or newborn death. At the Grand River address as given. Call (248) 424-5342 or (248) 685-7596 for more information.

YOGA OFFERED AT WATER WHEEL

Available now in the Water Wheel Health Club's custom activity room is Bikram Yoga. There are only a handful of instructors that teach this special and unique style of Yoga.

Bikram Choudhury scientifically designed this 90-minute program to deliver total health through balancing and strengthening of every system in the body in order to prevent illness, injury and limiting the effects of aging. Club members fee is \$12 per session and non-members fee is \$15 per session. Packages are available. Class times are Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at 12:30 p.m. Call (248) 449-7634 for more information or to sign up. Private classes are available.

FREE FOOT SCREENINGS

Free foot screenings are offered every Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Botsford General Hospital, Suite 200, South Professional Building, 28080 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills. For more information or to make an appointment, call (248) 473-1320, weekdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

SURGICAL PREPARATION

Through the Sally the Surgery Star program, children scheduled for surgery are taken on a tour and familiarized with the surgical experience. A variety of educational materials and supportive teaching tools are used to help children deal positively with the idea of a hospital stay.

Admission to the program is by appointment only. There is no charge.

Call the Providence Medical Center-Providence Park at (248) 380-4170 to register.

WEIGHT ON THE RUN

Conducted by an exercise physiologist and a nutritionist, this 12-week program starts with a fitness assessment and nutritional consultation, followed by three weekly monitored workouts and weekly nutritional support. Day and evening classes are available.

A \$300 fee includes enrollment in the class "ABC of Weight Loss." For more information and to register, call (248) 473-5600.

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics provide free ongoing well care for children from birth to school entry. Families who do not have an HMO or Medicaid may be eligible. Clinics

are held at 12 locations throughout Oakland County.

Services include: Heights and weights; head-to-toe physical examination; immunizations; vision, hearing and lab testing; growth and developmental screening; and counseling with referrals to physicians and area resources as needed.

Appointment is required. For more information, call: North Oakland, Pontiac, (248) 858-1311 or 858-4001; South Oakland, Southfield: (248) 424-7066 or 424-7067; West Oakland, Walled Lake: (248) 926-3341; and Holly residents: 1-888-350-0900, extension 8-1311 or 8-4001.

HEALTHY SOLUTIONS SEMINARS

Healthy Solutions are offering a seminar series over the next few weeks.

All seminars are free and begin at 7:30 p.m. Please call (248) 305-5785 or stop in healthy solutions to reserve a seat (space is limited). You may show up the night of the seminar, however a seat may not be available.

HOT FLASH STUDY

Women who suffer from multiple daily hot flashes associated with menopause are being sought to participate in a nationwide study to assess the safety and effectiveness of an investigational hormone replacement skin patch to treat hot flashes. Women may be eligible if they are between the ages of 45 and 65, have not had a menstrual period in six months, or a hysterectomy. For more information, call 493-6580.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Providence Medical Center-Providence Park is offering free blood pressure checks Monday through Friday from 9 to 11 a.m.

Area residents are invited to visit Providence Medical Center-Providence Park, 47601 Grand River Ave., to obtain the service. Screening will take place in Providence's Emergency Care Center located within the center.

For more information call (248) 380-4225.

FOOD ALLERGY COUNSELING

Individuals with food allergies can receive counseling on food choices and substitutions from a Botsford Hospital professional. The fee is \$30.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (248) 477-6100.

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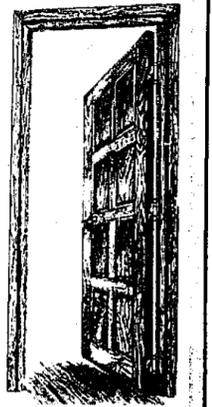
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